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SIXTEEN PAGES — ONE RIYAL

To Our Readers

Beginning early next year the Arab News stocks page will be transmitted from London every night and appear the next morning with full details on the markets' closings.

Readers who are interested in charting the progress of a stock on a major world market are requested to write Arab News with details so that it can be included — free of charge — in the listings.

Please send the names before Dec. 31, to:

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Arab News
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Students vow to 'punish' U.S. for letting Shah go

TEHRAN, Dec. 16 (Agencies) — Iranian students holding the 50 American hostages in Tehran vowed Sunday to try "the captive spies" in order "to punish... the great American demon" for "delivering the Shah to its puppet government in Panama."

The renewed threat of "spy" trials came in a statement issued by the militants and broadcast by Tehran Radio. It gave no date for the start of the trials. The statement was issued after the Shah and his family left the United States and flew to a resort island in Panama Saturday.

The statement said, "The great American demon... has carried out yet another of its clandestine maneuvers in an attempt to resolve the deadlock it faced and had created itself..."

The United States "expelled" (the Shah) and delivered him to "one of its puppet government's shelters in Panama," the statement said. It added, "We therefore declare that in order to punish (the United States) and reveal America's treacherous intrigues the captive spies will be put on trial."

The radio, monitored in London, also broadcast a speech by Ayatollah Khomeini in which he said the United States was "in the process of brainwashing this criminal (the Shah) to make him forget everything," and "(U.S. President Jimmy) Carter knows he will be exposed if he returns him. He knows that by doing so he cannot get re-elected."

In his first speech since the Shah's departure, Khomeini said Sunday that Iran had no fear of U.S. retaliation for holding the hos-

tages and threatened, "We will bury your military men."

The Iranian leader said Washington had refused to return the former monarch to Iran for trial because it was afraid that the extent of American involvement in the Shah's government might be revealed.

Khomeini, who gave the speech to revolutionary guards in the city of Qom, said Iran feared neither military action nor economic sanctions.

"We are not afraid of your military intervention. We hope that all the (Iranian) nation have guns and are good fighters."

He added, "Carter and the superpowers are afraid and terrified of Islam. They are afraid of the wave of Islam which might overcome countries and defeat them."

In an apparent reference to Saturday's ruling by the International Court of Justice in The Hague calling for the immediate release of the hostages, Khomeini said, "Carter has been defeated politically and he is appealing to this court and that, to this president and that."

"He is afraid that the American people might realize what (U.S.) presidents did to our people," he said. He added, "I promise that he will not be re-elected."

The Carter administration hoped that the departure of the Shah might help to win freedom for the hostages.

Presidential aides Saturday night awaited an official response from Iran to the Shah's departure Saturday in a journey set up by White House chief of staff Hamilton Jordan during secret shuttles between Panama City and Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said he hoped the former monarch's move from Lackland, coupled with the order by the World Court for the immediate release of the hostages, would end the crisis.

A senior official said he saw signs of hope in the decision of the deposed ruler to quit the United States.

"To the extent that the release of the hostages has been delayed by the mistaken belief that the United States could or would yield to the demand to return the Shah & Iran, his departure from the United States and residence in Panama clearly removes that reason for delay," the official said.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, whose criticisms of the Shah caused a political furor and appear to have cost him some support in his 1980 presidential battle against Carter, said, "I'm hopeful the activities of the Shah will mean a new opportunity for the safe release of the hostages."



SWISS: King Khalid receives Swiss Minister of Economy Fritz Honegger in Riyadh Sunday.

Plastic plant opened

King sees Swiss minister

RIYADH, Dec. 16 (SPA) — King Khalid Sunday received Swiss Economy Minister Fritz Honegger, who has been visiting the Kingdom as head of a delegation for the meeting of the Saudi-Swiss Joint Commission.

The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Fahd, special adviser Dr. Rashad Pharaon, and Minister of Industry and Electricity Dr. Ghazi Algosabi.

Earlier Honegger held talks with Minister of Finance and National Economy Sheikh Muhammad Aba Al-Khalil, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency Governor Abdul Aziz Al-Quraishi and Planning Minister Sheikh Hisham Nazer.

Dr. Algosabi said at the conclusion of

Sunday's talks that the ties between Switzerland and the Kingdom were based on friendship and cordiality, and added that he hoped Swiss firms would play an important role in projects undertaken in Saudi Arabia's next five-year development plan.

Sunday Honegger and Dr. Algosabi dedicated the Arab Plastic Company plant in Riyadh to construct and operate plastic industries in Saudi Arabia and to manufacture plastic piping and other articles.

Honegger said the plant was a "shining example of Saudi-Swiss cooperation" and would serve as an example for more such operations in the future.

"Such operations are examples of the excellent relationship between the two countries," he added.

Dr. Algosabi said the factory will help Saudi firms to compete favorably with foreign products.

The factory is a joint venture between the Saudi Plastic Company, which owns 73.5 per cent of the stock and the Swiss firm George Fisher, which owns 26.5 per cent. It is capitalized at SR8.4 million.

Dr. Algosabi said the factory shows what government aid to industry — such as customs exemptions and liberal credit — can accomplish.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Electricity Dr. Fuad Al-Farisi said the new factory is "a brick in the large industrial structure the Kingdom is building." He, too, talked about the government's willingness to aid industry.

Honegger was also honored Sunday at a lunch given by the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Saturday he held talks with Commerce Minister Dr. Soliman A. Solaim, during which the commerce minister said he hoped the joint commission talks were successful.

Honegger told Arab News in a message that the two states have been working together for a long period.

"Thanks to the large development projects which the government of Saudi Arabia initiated some years ago, a close partnership has arisen between the two countries," he said.

Abdullah meets British envoy

RIYADH, Dec. 16 (SPA) — Second Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Prince Abdullah Sunday received the new British Ambassador James Craig. The meeting was attended by Prince Badr bin Abdul Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Tuwaijri, assistant deputy commander and the British Military Attache Col. Murray de Klee.



COMFORTED: Kypriou Toukan, wife of Samir Toukan, second secretary at the PLO office who was shot and killed in Nicosia Saturday, being comforted after the killing of her husband.

Israel blamed

Murdered PLO aides flown to Beirut

BEIRUT, Dec. 16 (Agencies) — The bodies of two Palestine Liberation Organization officials shot dead in Cyprus were greeted here Sunday by an honor guard and a top PLO official who blamed the assassinations on Israel.

The No. 2 man at the PLO office in Nicosia, Cyprus, Samir Toukan, and PLO official Ibrahim Barghieth were shot dead Saturday night as they parked their car near Toukan's home in Nicosia.

Walid Wazir, the military commander of the PLO, greeted the Cyprus Airways plane that brought the bodies back from the island along with Toukan's wife and George Pelagias, director general of Cyprus Foreign Ministry, representing Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou.

Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, repeated the PLO accusation that the men were murdered by Israeli agents.

Pelagias accompanied the bodies in what a PLO spokesman called a gesture of friendship. Palestine Liberation Army police armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles flanked the flag-draped coffins as they were lowered from the jet and moved to trucks.

"The two martyrs have baptized with their blood the long struggle of the Palestinian people against the Zionist enemy," said a statement issued by PLO's military wing Fateh.

Later, a PLO spokesman said the two Palestinians will be buried in Beirut.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli newspaper claimed Sunday that one of the PLO officials gunned down in Nicosia was in Cyprus to organize attacks against Israel and Egypt.

Maoir reported, "unconfirmed reports indicate that Abu Safwat is one of the field personnel of Fateh, who came to Cyprus to plan operations against Israeli and Egyptian targets."

In another development Libyan radio said Saturday that Palestinians in Libya held their first "popular Palestinian congress" in Benghazi as an act of defiance toward Yasser Arafat who is feuding with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

Solar energy: A political trap for Third World

By Thomas Land

GENEVA, Dec. 16 (OFNS) — Third World countries have been warned against the political and economic risks of relying on solar energy as a source of power for future industrialization.

By doing so, they will place themselves in the grip of multinational corporations which are developing the requisite technology at public expense in Europe and North America.

The warning comes in discussion papers to be placed before a specialist panel preparing for a world conference on new and renewable energy sources. The papers acknowledge that the sun may well provide mankind's main source of energy.

There are seven other panels preparing for the 1981 conference, studying sources such as waves, winds, geothermal heat, oil-shale, tar sands, wood and charcoal.

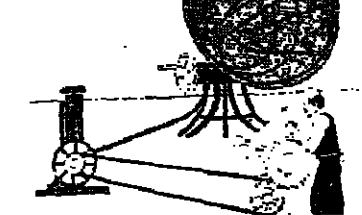
The panel on solar energy will start work on territory mapped by a specialist meeting in Geneva in July. It found that solar power development, as conceived by the industrial leaders of the West, is already a capital-intensive big business and could rival the steel and automotive industries in a decade.

Its principal source of revenue is public finance but, with something like \$2 billion in direct investment and tax credits spent annually by Western Europe and North America research in energy conservation and development, it has attracted the interest of private industry.

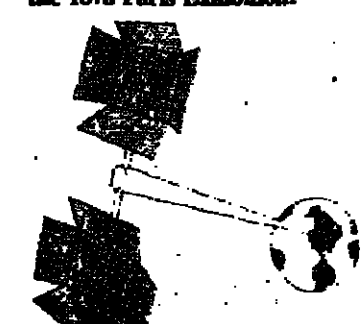
Shell, Mobil, Exxon and Motorola have either built or purchased private, advanced solar technology research concerns. Westinghouse, General Motors and General Electric already dominate the world market for such specialized technologies as photovoltaic cells and equipment for the solar heat-

ing and cooling of homes and office.

Within 20 years, electric power consumption in Western Europe and North America is expected to triple.



PRINTING: A solar powered steam engine developed by Antoine Lavoisier ran a printing press at the 1878 Paris Exhibition.



POWER: A single orbiting solar power plant is estimated to have the potential of producing 5,000 megawatts.

Nuclear power stations could not be built at sufficient speed to accommodate demand, and burning fossil fuel at such a rate would have an unacceptable impact on the environment (assuming the fuel were available). The most likely single alternative is solar energy.

Prototype solar power stations have been tried or are under construction in Saudi Arabia, France, West Germany, the United States, Sicily and Japan. One form is the heliostat, a collection of large, mobile mirrors focusing on a point where accumulated energy is converted into electricity. Such a plant built on a commercial scale, would cost perhaps three times as much as a nuclear power station.

More ambitious proposals call for solar power generation involving satellites that focus sunlight on to giant, orbiting collectors, which then radiate power by micro-wave to still larger collectors on Earth.

Solar technologies range from the very simple, in which the big companies are, as a rule, not interested, to the extremely complex, such as photovoltaic cells which were developed to power the instruments of space satellites.

Their cost is at present prohibitive. Most of the solar pumps powered by photovoltaic cells in the Sahelian zone of Africa have been donated through foreign aid programs. The multinationals are seeking methods to reduce the cost. When they succeed, their ideas will be protected by patent.

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As Guard personnel honored

Khaled orders 31 officers decorated

RIYADH, Dec. 16 (SPA) — King Khaled has ordered the award of medals to 31 military officers in appreciation of their services.

It was announced here Saturday, the officers decorated include Brig. Ali Ibrahim Badr; Col. Abdo Muhammad Assiri; Lt. Col. Abdullah Hassan Bahazalah; Lt. Col. Hussein Omar Mandourah; Lt. Col. Taha Muhammad Said Khudeiri; Lt. Col. Mahmoud Hamza Waqah; Lt. Col. Saad Muhammad Al-Mufreh; Lt. Col. Abdul Aziz Abdul Hayy Tashkandi; Maj. Abdul Khaliq Muhammad Assiri; Maj. Hassan Abdullah Al-Ghani; Maj. Sadaqah Said Khitabi; Maj. Fouad ibn Sadeq; Maj. Hussein Saem Al-Dahr; Capt. Abdullah Abdul Rahman Al-Ruqaibah; Capt. Ibrahim Owaish Al-Oteibi; Capt. Talal Seifuddin Hakim; Capt. Abdul Hamid Bakr Barnawi; Capt. Muhammad Abdullah Al-Qarni; Capt. Bakr Abdul Wahed Kabli; Capt. Hassan Qutb; Capt. Sami Muhammad Abdullah Reda; Capt. Saad Ibrahim Al-Qamari; Capt. Ahmad Muhammad Al-Yaadi; Capt. Ahmad Muhammad Abu Itq; Capt. Abdul Rahman Saleh Al-Zubairi; Lt. Fahd Abdullah Al-Saman; Lt. Saleh Ahmed Al-Ghamed; Lt. Ali Said Al-Qashtani and Lt. Mansour Siraj Khayat.

Meanwhile, Prince Badr, deputy commander of the

National Guard, Saturday presided over a ceremony held by the guard's Second Joint Arms Division in honor of the officers and men who joined the armed forces and Public Security personnel in recently purging the Holy Haram of its attackers.

Prince Badr said in a speech that he was happy and proud of the heroism of the division's personnel during their encounters with the deviators.

Meanwhile, a number of prominent Indonesian Muslim personalities have thanked the Saudi Arabian government for its sincere effort in ridding the Holy Mosque of the renegades.

In a statement, they urged the Islamic nation to meditate and to learn a lesson from the incident.

In a separate development, Secretary General of the Muslim World League Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Harakan has received a Malaysian Islamic delegation which arrived in Jeddah Sunday at the League's invitation. The two sides exchanged views on Islamic matters, with particular reference to the application of Islamic law in economy and finance.

Harakan has been invited by the Senegalese government to participate in celebrations of the Islamic associations to be held there Dec. 22.

League Assistant Secretary General Sheikh Muhammad Sawat Al-Saqa, who returned to Mecca from Niger Friday, also attended Harakan's meeting with the Malaysian delegation. He said

the delegation would discuss with League officials how to enforce Islamic law in Malaysia. He added that those efforts emphasized again the Islamic nation's return to the Holy Koran and the Prophet's Traditions, and that there was no room for Communism or Socialism, in an Islamic state.

Saqa said an Islamic conference, to be held by the League in cooperation with Malaysian Islamic associations in Kuala Lumpur next month, would discuss a number of topics connected with the propagation of Islam and resistance of the alien currents now invading the region of South-east Asia.

Saqa, who was in Niger to inspect the League's centers there, said that the Niger government had given land on which the League has built a clinic, a school and a library for Muslims.

In another development, Minister of Pilgrimage and Endowments Sheikh Abdul Wahhab Abdul Wasie leaves for Manama Monday for a three-day official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of Sheikh Bin Khalifa, Bahrain's minister of justice and Islamic affairs.

In the meantime, the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference Habib Chatti, met in Jeddah Sunday with Shamsuddin Andoi, the Senegalese ambassador to the Kingdom. The two discussed Islamic matter and cooperation between the OIC and the Senegalese government.

In Jeddah, it was announced that the Islamic Center for Historical Research would be opened in Istanbul Monday. The Islamic Foreign Ministers' conference of 1977, which was held in Turkey, had agreed to set it up.

President of the Islamic Development Bank Dr. Ahmed Muhammad Ali meanwhile returned to Jeddah from Manama Sunday after a short visit to Bahrain, where he attended the opening ceremony of the new Islamic Bank.



King Khaled

From air academy

King to attend graduation

JEDDAH, Dec. 16 — King Khaled will attend the graduation ceremony of the 17th batch of cadets from King Faisal Air Academy Wednesday Dec. 26.

Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan told *Al-Riyadh* Sunday that the class includes a number of students from neighboring Arab countries.

The prince said that Saudi Arabia had sent a reminder to the

Abdo Yamani praises press

RIYADH, Dec. 16 (SPA) — Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdo Yamani Sunday praised the local press for the exhaustive manner with which the Mecca events were covered.

The statement was made Sunday at the minister's regular meeting with Saudi editors in chief, in the presence of Deputy Minister Dr. Abdul Aziz Khoja. The meeting dealt with the coverage of external and internal events and means of improving the press.

United States for the speedy delivery of the F15 planes, according to the agreed schedule. He added that Saudi Arabian pilots were already training on the aircraft abroad.

The paper reported elsewhere that a royal decree will be issued within the coming few days abrogating a previous one which banned armed forces personnel from real estate loans.

Well informed sources were quoted as saying that the military men will be offered the choice between their place of birth, their place of residence or their place of work.

In a separate development, it was learnt that the fourth and fifth classes of police patrol agents, totalling 660, will graduate in Riyadh next month.

Col. Fahd Al-Sharif, Riyadh's deputy police commander, said that the group will be the first to graduate from Riyadh after a full course and a complementary course for those who had already graduated from Cairo.

1-1 in Jeddah match

Brazilians tie with Saudi team

By Mansur Muhammad Ali

JEDDAH, Dec. 16 — Sao Paolo again held the Saudi Arabian national soccer team to a 1-1 draw in Jeddah Saturday night. They had drawn in Riyadh Thursday. The team left Sunday for home.

The vice-president of the Youth Welfare, Prince Fahd ibn Sultan, watched the close match. Despite the cold of the wintry night, hundreds of people cheered the national team to the beat of drums and the chant of "Saudi" in the near-full stadium.

Meneli, the Saudi Arabian coach, watched the match, played against his former club. This was the first test for the national team under his management. He took over the post recently after the premature departure of Jimmy Hill of Britain.

The attacking Saudi Arabian team controlled the field most of the time, but Sao Paolo scored first, from a ball confused between defender Tawfiq Al-Mugran and Ibrahim Al-Yousef, the goalie. Antonio Neco seized the opportunity and sent it into an empty goal.

From the beginning the two teams exchanged fierce attacks. After the Brazilian goal, the Saudi Arabians shot unsuccessfully several times from outside the penalty area.

In the 40th minute Majed Abdullah reversed a ball to Yousef Khamis, who sent it out.

Issa Hamdan played No. 11 attractively, but Majed was not up to his usual form. Ahmad Saqr commanded the mid-field, and gave his customary solo performance. Issa Khawaji, No. Two, and Osman Marzouk, No. Five, attacked occasionally. Marzouk in good control of the ball.

In the second minute of the second half Majed Abdullah scored after passing three Brazilian defenders. A reversed ball from an attack on the Brazilian goal, when most of the Saudi Arabian defenders were on the attack, left two Saudi Arabian players in confrontation with Mabrouk Al-Turki, their goal keeper.

In another attack, Majed passed a ball to Abdullah Abdurabu, who accidentally kicked it into the face of the Brazilian keeper. Doctors were called in, but he was not badly hurt. The referee,

Dahmash, ruled that the ball be dropped inside the penalty box just a little off the goal line. The Brazilians got it away.

Ahmad Saqr was replaced in the 18th minute of the second half by Issa Khalifa, and left a gap at the mid-field. Marzouk stepped into his place.

A Sao Paolo shot then hit the post. For ten minutes the Brazilians intensified their attack. Abdurabu shot; the ball hit the keeper and bounced to give Majed his favorite header, but a defender saved the Brazilian net by sending it into a corner.

Riyadh will bid to host early World Cup games

JEDDAH, Dec. 16 (SPA) — Saudi Arabia is to bid to hold qualifying matches for the 1982 World Cup in Riyadh.

At a meeting here Saturday of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, chaired by Prince Fahd ibn Sultan, vice-president of Youth Welfare, the decision was taken to go ahead. Othman Al-Saad, under secretary of the General Presidency of Youth Welfare, was authorized to negotiate with

the Asian Football Union and other federations about the possibility of holding Group B World Cup qualifying matches in Riyadh in December 1980 or January 1981.

The meeting also scheduled the remaining matches of the Saudi Arabian tournament, including those delayed, and banned the goal keeper of Al-Nour for three months.

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Saudi Comment

By Hashem Abdo Hashem Al-Bilad

For some time we in Saudi Arabia have been trying to reactivate the 'North-South' dialogue. At the same time we have been warning of the yawning gap between the rich and developing nations, and calling for meetings to narrow the gap in a sincere effort to bring prosperity to as many people as possible.

Unfortunately, the industrialized states have been behaving selfishly, while the poorer ones have failed to improve their lot.

That is why the Kingdom has been trying to build bridges to bring the two sides together through efforts to convene the Paris conference, maintaining a reasonable rate of oil production and prices, controlling the rate of fluctuation of the currencies most closely related to the world economy, curtailing the rate of inflation, which has affected the

economic well-being of most of the world.

In all this we have been trying to create some kind of coordination between the countries that own operate advanced technology and the developing states, with their raw materials and markets.

Progress has been slow in the last five years, but the pressing need for such coordination and cooperation has prompted us to continue trying.

This has come in the form of the committee formed by the North and South under the chairmanship of former Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany, who recently met Crown Prince Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. The committee realizes the importance of the Kingdom's efforts and intentions. It must agree, too, that what Saudi Arabia is seeking ought to be encouraged because of its value to humanity at large. At the same time it should also help in correcting previous unfair imbalances.

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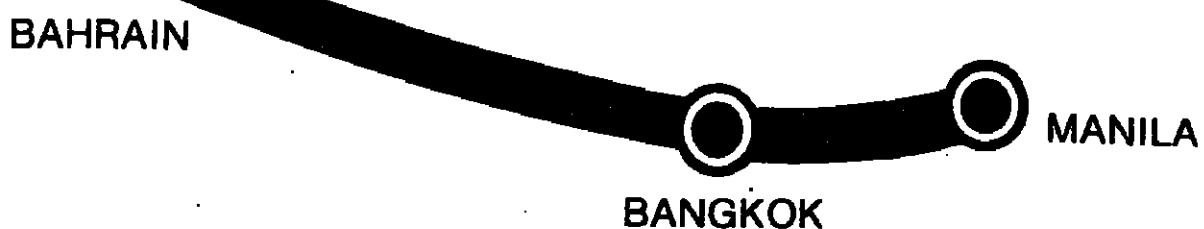
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Increasing Kingdom's capacity sixfold

Dammam sulfuric acid plant on stream soon

By a Staff Writer
DAMMAM, Dec. 16 — With world demand for sulfur products on the increase, the Saudi Arabian Fertilizer Company is bringing to completion its new sulfuric acid plant in Dammam.

The new plant, built for SR35 million, will increase SAFCO's sulfuric acid production capacity from 50 to 300 tons a day.

The new installation, designed and built as a turnkey contract by the British firm Sim-Chem, will come on stream in about 45 days.

SAFCO has already exceeded its 1979 goal of producing 265 thousand tons of urea fertilizer by about 30,000 tons. It manufactures sulfur as a byproduct of the complex chemical process which turns unsweetened natural gas

into urea brines out of ammonia and carbon dioxide at high pressures.

Sulfuric acid, to produce 50 tons of which requires 20 tons of raw sulfur, finds its principal domestic use in the desalination plants at Alkhobar and Jeddah, where the acid is used to stabilize salts in the brine.

Apart from industrial applications, sulfur finds uses in fields as diverse as pharmaceuticals and phosphate fertilizers.

With 95 per cent of its urea earmarked for export, principally to the markets of the Indian sub-continent and China, SAFCO will enjoy a breathing spell during which it will be able to supply the foreign market with some of the additional sulfuric acid. But

expansion of Saudi Arabia's own desalination projects will eventually require all that SAFCO can produce.

Sulfur prices have shot up over the past two years: From \$25 to \$110 a ton in non-producing areas. In the expectation that prices and demand will remain firm at least until 1983, SAFCO last September proposed to Petromin a joint cost-and-profit-sharing program which calls for Petromin to supply 4,000 tons of molten sulfur daily to SAFCO to turn into exportable solid sulfur, at one of three Petromin sites: Berri, Shadgum, or Uthmaniya.

The proposal, price at \$45 million, is expected to pay for itself and show a profit in the first two years of operations.

Petromin has already agreed to guarantee SAFCO a supply of 1,000 tons of sulfur a day; the bulk of the project is now the subject of consultations between the Ministry of Industry and Electricity, to which SAFCO is responsible, and the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals Resources.

The cost of sulfur, which has helped to stimulate local production, may be prohibitive for its use as a road-building substance in Saudi Arabia.

Studies at the Research Center of the University of Petroleum and Minerals at Dhahran are designed to assess the suitability of a sulfur-asphalt mixture to metal the Kingdom's highways.

The project director, Dr. Wad-

dah Akili, contests the assumption that the price of sulfur makes its use in road-building not feasible.

"Asphalt, which now costs about \$120 a ton has tripled in cost in the last four years," he says. "In two to five years, sulfur may be only about a quarter as expensive as asphalt. After the second phase of the Shadgum natural gas liquefaction project is completed in 1983, the Kingdom will be producing 5,000 tons of sulfur a day. I have estimated, very roughly, that if 20 per cent of the roads to be built during the next Five Year Plan are done with a sulfur-asphalt mixture, the Kingdom might save as much as SR500 million."

Although the question of whether is debatable, there seems to be little doubt that a sulfur-asphalt mixture is a good construction product. Akili asserts that road thickness may be reduced by 30 per cent and aggregates like sand which is compatible with the mixture can be used if sulfur-asphalt is adopted in road construction.

Research into such uses of sulfur has been conducted in Canada.

To meet IDB, SFD

Turkish Cypriot team here

JEDDAH, Dec. 16 — A delegation from the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus headed by Hakkı Atun, minister of finance and economy, arrived here Sunday.

The deputy minister of finance and President of the Islamic Development Bank Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Ali welcomed the delegation.

The delegation will hold talks with the Islamic Development Bank and the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Turkish embassy said in a state-

ment. Receptions will be given in honor of the delegation by Muhammad Ali and the president of the Chamber of Commerce, Sheikh Ismail Abu Dawoud.

The delegation will leave Jeddah Wednesday for Riyadh to meet Saudi Fund for Development officials.

It is expected that the delegation will be received by King Khalid and other senior officials. The delegation leaves the Kingdom Thursday.

Iraq, with two new plants in production and a capacity of 4,600 tons per day, is the biggest exporter of urea in the area.



SIGNING: Saudi Basic Industries Corporation Vice-Chairman Abdul Aziz Alzamel (second from right, above) arrived in Taipei recently to sign a joint venture agreement with the Taiwan Fertilizer Company on the construction of a urea fertilizer plant in Jubail. He is greeted by Huang Ta-ho (second from left), president of the Taiwan Fertilizer Company. Below, Alzamel signs the agreement with Chinese Economics Minister Chang Kwang-shih.



WEATHER

It will be fine during the day and cold during the night in most areas. Temperatures will rise slightly in the western and north-western regions.

Low and medium cloud will cover the northern and western regions, and the south-western highlands. There might be scattered thunderstorms.

Winds will be moderate and variable. They may be south-easterly in the central and northern regions, causing occasional sand haze.

Seas will be moderate to light.

Sunday's temperatures (Maximum, minimum in centigrade)

Mecca	28	17	Jizan	32	25
Jeddah	30	17	Wajh	25	11
Riyadh	18	08	Turaif	13	03
Dhahran	19	11	Arar	15	02
Medina	21	09	Sulayyil	25	10
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Two Afghanistan provinces claimed by Muslim rebels

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 16 (Agencies) — Muslim rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan claim to have captured two provinces after defeating government troops, the Urdu-language newspaper *Jang* of Rawalpindi said Sunday.

Quoting Jami'at Islami (Islamic Party) sources, the paper said the rebels have seized control of the provinces of Hamyan and Ruzgan, Hamyan, west of Kabul, the Afghan capital, provides the main overland international link between Kabul and the western countries. Ruzgan is southwest of Kabul.

Mogadishu studying offer by Aden to normalize ties

MOGADISHU, Dec. 16 — Somalia is considering an overture by South Yemen to forget all about the past and normalize relations, *Arab News* has learned.

Aden approached North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to sponsor the dialogue with Mogadishu when Somalia's vice president visited Sanaa. However, no positive results have been achieved and the visit went unannounced.

Well-informed sources said that South Yemeni officials explained their country's previous attitude toward Somalia which followed an international alliance among Aden, Ethiopia, Cuba and the

gan, Hamyan, west of Kabul, the Afghan capital, provides the main overland international link between Kabul and the western countries. Ruzgan is southwest of Kabul.

The sources said rebel flags are flying over all official buildings in the two provinces.

The Jami'at Islami claimed that the rebels laid an 11-day siege at Ruzgan, where an army brigade is

stationed. It said they arrested the government troops and captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

The rebels also claimed to have destroyed 60 tanks and three Soviet-made helicopters.

Both sides are reported to have suffered a large number of dead and injured, but their number was not known.

In another report, *Jang* said that the deposed king of Afghanistan may be asked to return to head a new government there.

Quoting informed sources in Peshawar the paper said "The Soviet Union is toying with the idea of bringing ex-King Zahir Shah back to government," as rebel fighting against the government has not come to an end despite massive Soviet military aid.

In a separate development, the U.S. State Department said Saturday that at least 5,000 Soviet military personnel, more than 1,000 of them combat troops, are in Afghanistan and the buildup is continuing.

In a written answer to reporters' questions, the department said Soviet combat troops and heavy equipment had recently appeared at Bagram airfield just north of Kabul.



Kurt Waldheim

Waldheim seeks extension of UNIFIL mandate

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 16 (R) — U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has proposed a six-month extension of the mandate of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL.

The Security Council is expected to approve the proposal early next week.

In his written report to the council Saturday Waldheim said a main element of the problem in southern Lebanon, where the U.N. is trying to restore central government control, is the intransigence of "the de facto forces" — the U.N. term for the Israel-supported right-wing Lebanese militia.

Another problem resulted from continuing attempts by armed elements to infiltrate the UNIFIL area, Waldheim said. While the Palestine Liberation Organization had renewed its assurances of cooperation with the force, infiltrations nevertheless had continued, although their number had diminished since the August 26 ceasefire.

"These infiltration attempts are usually explained by the PLO and the Lebanon National Movement as being defensive measures necessitated by the encroachments or the aggressive intentions of the de facto forces acting with the encouragement and assistance of Israel," Waldheim said.

Prisoners get amnesty in Bahrain

BAHRAIN, Dec. 16 (R) — An undisclosed number of prisoners were freed Sunday to mark the anniversary of Bahrain's independence in 1971, the official Bahrain radio said.

Bahrain's ruler Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, granted the amnesty, the radio said, but gave no other details about the prisoners.

To mark the anniversary, new currency notes of various denominations have been put into circulation and several hundreds of families are to receive government-built houses or housing loans.

Istanbul cafe blast kills 5

ISTANBUL, Dec. 16 (AP) — A powerful bomb explosion rocked a cafeteria frequented by university students on the Bosphorus waterfront, police said Saturday night.

First reports said at least five persons were killed and another 19 injured in the blast at the Barbarossa Cafeteria in the Besiktas district at the mouth of the Bosphorus Strait.

India, Bangladesh talks inconclusive

NEW DELHI, Dec. 16 (AP) — India and Bangladesh Sunday failed to reach agreement over a boundary dispute and an Indian government spokesman said another round of talks will be held in Dacca next month.

"Though the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere ... (they) were inconclusive," the spokesman said. The meeting was scheduled to end Friday and despite two extensions an agreement was not reached.

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As border incidents, accusations continue

Iran, Iraq edging to a flare-up?

TEHRAN, Dec. 16 (R) — Relations between Iran and Iraq, the two biggest military powers on the Gulf, have plunged close to breaking point — with each side accusing the other of working for the United States and Israel.

Linked by cordial ties during the last four years of rule of the deposed Shah of Iran, the two neighbors have been involved in a series of border incidents since last February's Islamic revolution here.

It brought Shi'ite Muslim religious leaders to power for the first time in a modern state and caused deep concern across the border in Iraq.

The Middle East neighbors, whose rivalry has roots deep on history, have now seized upon the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran to accuse each other of the worst sin in the Middle East political vocabulary — working for U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Commenting on the occupation of the U.S. mission, where 50 Americans are being held hostage, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party of Iraq declared a month after the embassy was seized on Nov. 4:

"There is no longer the slightest doubt about the connection between the irresponsible acts of the Tehran rulers and aggressive American designs, Zionist ambitions, and the Camp David conspiracy ..."

According to the Iraqi version, the revolutionaries running Iran engineered the embassy takeover, in collusion with the Americans, to give the U.S. a pretext for military intervention in the Middle East and the occupation of its oil regions.

The very day *Al-Thawra* newspaper carried this allegation, Iran's new foreign minister, Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, appeared on national television to state that Iraq "follows the line of American imperialism and has links with Zionism."

He added: "So, now I am stating firmly that our

patience is limited. They (the Iraqis) must be careful and stop their plots because they cannot abuse our patience and our humanity indefinitely."

Less than two weeks later, the Iranians accused Iraq of sending a band of saboteurs into Iran to stage an attack aimed at undermining Tehran's "righteous struggle against the United States" as reflected by the embassy seizure.

Fat-fetched as they seem to people elsewhere, these charges serve to underline that relations have reverted to the frosty state of the early 1970s, when Iranian support for Kurdish rebels in Iraq and a sharp border dispute brought the two countries close to all-out war.

Armed conflict between Iraq and Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic republic would have major impact on the West and the world economy: Iran and Iraq are respectively the second and third-biggest oil producers in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

But in both Tehran and Baghdad, officials dismiss Western speculation that Iraq, emboldened by the internal trouble in Iran, was considering action to take over the oil fields in Iran's Khuzestan province on the border with Iraq. Officially termed Arabistan in Iraq, the province has a large population of ethnic Arabs who have been involved in clashes with Iranian government troops.

Iran has accused Iraq of encouraging ethnic dissidents in both Khuzestan and Kurdistan. According to independent sources in Beirut, Iraqi authorities looked the other way when a limited quantity of light weapons was smuggled into Khuzestan from Iraq earlier this year.

In theory at least, Iran and Iraq have enough in common for an ideal partnership: oil wealth, implacable hostility toward the United States and Israel and shared concern for the poor countries of the Third World. In practice, the two countries pursue such different policies that a return to normal relations appears unlikely in the near future.

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The best tobacco money can buy

Mrs. Gandhi on the road to a remarkable comeback

By Sonanda Datta-Ray

CALCUTTA. India, the world's biggest democracy, will go to the polls for the seventh time in its history next month to elect 542 MPs and the regional governments of 16 states and union territories.

Nearly 362 million men and women (of a total population of about 620 million) will cast their votes in half-a-million polling booths. More than 20,000 clerks have already checked that the list of voters, compiled in a door-to-door survey, has not missed anyone.

Officials say the election will not cost more than \$50 million, but more realistic private estimates suggest that \$170 million would be nearer the mark. The amount of money each candidate is allowed to spend was increased a few weeks ago from \$4,000 to more than \$11,000.

The rules will be broken in many constituencies, especially those with stellar contestants - like Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, where Indira Gandhi is pitted against Her Highness the Dowager Maharani Vijay Raje Scindia of Gwalior. There the campaign could cost a smuch as \$400,000.

Jeeps are necessary to tour rough roads and mountain tracks. Villagers who trek long distances to listen to their leaders' promises have to be housed and fed. Influential political opponents have often to be bought off with bribes. It all costs a great deal of money.

Some is provided by the sponsoring party, which is permissible. The rest is supplied by businessmen, which is not. But so prevalent is such help that Atal Behari Vajpayee, External Affairs Minister in Morarji Desai's Janata Party Government, once

complained that the overwhelming majority of Indian MPs are forced to "embark on their parliamentary careers with a gross lie - the false election returns which they submit."

More than 700 politicians who stood in 1977 have been disqualified this time because they did not explain where they got their funds.

Some Indian politicians are suspected of receiving help from abroad. Mrs. Gandhi accuses the American Central Intelligence Agency of financing her enemies. A defeated opposition candidate, Balraj Madhok, complained in 1971 that he lost only because ballot papers in his favor were marked with vanishing ink supplied by the Soviet Union.

So widespread were such charges after the 1967 elections that the government decided to investigate. The results of the inquiry were never published because all parties were found to have received money from one foreign source or another, it is believed.

But the main financiers are domestic. In 1977, for instance, industrialists are said to have given away \$20 million, most of it to Mrs. Gandhi's party. State governments under her control spent \$560 million on development projects (roads, electricity, water, irrigation, and fertilisers) to impress voters.

Money power is not all, however, as was convincingly demonstrated in 1977, when Congress party representation was slashed from 350 to 153. A conglomerate of five political organizations, calling itself the Janata Party, captured 302 seats in that historic poll, and became the first non-Congress Ministry to rule in New Delhi since the British left India in 1947.

Morarji Desai, then aged 81 and once a minor

district official, became Prime Minister with a tremendous fund of goodwill. Since elections are ordinarily held every five years, it was assumed that he would remain in office until 1982.

But Desai was unable to hold together his warring coalition partners. Industrial production slowed down. There were frequent strikes. Civil servants, freed from Mrs. Gandhi's rigid discipline, began taking life easy. Politicians became even more corrupt. Prices rose steeply. So did crime.

India's 70 million Muslims and 90 million Harijan 'untouchables' were brutally victimized by high caste Hindus.

Desai did nothing. Interested only in private fads like a crusade against drinking, he was content to let things drift so long as his nominal authority was acknowledged.

What brought him down was the betrayal of his deputy, Charan Singh, aged 77, who was desperately anxious to become Prime Minister. Mrs. Gandhi shrewdly played on his ambitions. She promised the support of her 71 Congress MPs if Singh would lead his 80 supporters into revolt.

He needed little persuasion. When Prime Minister Desai faced a routine no-confidence motion, Singh announced he would not vote for his leader. Desai resigned on 15 July, 1979. Charan Singh became Prime Minister on July 28. But it was immediately clear that the minority government of his Lok Dal (People's Group) would collapse the moment Mrs. Gandhi withdrew support.

She did not waste much time in doing so, and he quit on August 20, 23 days after taking office and just 15 minutes before he was due to face a parliamentary confidence vote.

This time, however, the President of India, who,

as Head of State, is bound to act on the Prime Minister's advice, accepted Singh's decision to dissolve Parliament and call for fresh elections.

It was felt that no political leader could command a stable majority, and Singh was asked to carry out a caretaker capacity.

Three main contestants are campaigning for the coming poll. Since 70 per cent of Indians cannot read or write, the candidates are identified by symbols. Charan Singh's Lok Dal has a man ploughing a field. Mrs. Gandhi's Congress has the palm of a raised hand. Janata (which is now led by an extremely competent 71-year-old Harijan politician, Jagjivan Ram) has a peasant shouldering a plough.

The problem for the electorate is that all three main parties are promising the same things. But Mrs. Gandhi seems to have an edge over her rivals.

She has staged a miraculous comeback since March, 1977, when she was defeated by more than 55,000 votes in her own constituency. She has triumphantly won a by-election since then, been expelled from Parliament, been jailed, and arraigned before a dozen special courts and commissions of inquiry for transgressions during the 18 months of her emergency rule.

Her popularity is growing daily. Censorship, imprisonment without trial, demolition of houses and forced sterilizations are already a distant memory.

It should surprise no one if Indira Gandhi emerges with an absolute majority. Even if she does not, she will probably lead the single most numerous party, obliging Jagjivan Ram - tipped for the second position to sue for a coalition. — (OFNS).

DANGEROUS DAYS

The weekend just passed has seen a grave escalation in the internal confrontation between Iran's two major religious and political leaders, Ayatollahs Khomeini and Shariat Madari. This now overshadows the external confrontation between Iran and the United States, and threatens to cause it to deteriorate further.

The show of strength in Tabriz, where the followers of Ayatollah Shariat Madari are a majority, has now been answered by a show in Tehran by Ayatollah Khomeini's followers. Ominously, these latter have carried placards demanding the dissolution of all parties except that of Khomeini. This cannot but represent a setback for those more conciliatory members of Khomeini's circle, who had succeeded in starting negotiations with the Shariat Madari party.

The situation between the two sides has become so tense that the followers of Shariat Madari are reported to have closed their party's offices in Tehran.

With the Iranian leadership occupied with internal dissension, it was left to the students occupying the embassy to react to the news of the Shah's departure from the United States to Panama. This they did with characteristic ferocity, renewing their attack on the Carter Administration and threatening to bring the date of the trials for the hostages forward.

The students' threats have to be taken seriously. Yet, although the leadership has other things on its mind, it is clear that it has ultimate say in the matter. As journalists and foreign observers allowed into the embassy to see the hostages have been able to ascertain, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, which under Khomeini's direct orders, is in full control of the building.

The danger is that the internal crisis might push the Khomeini leadership to endorse the students' proposal. It might feel that a trial of some of the hostages would both divert attention from internal dissent as well as provide a rallying point against the internal opposition.

Observers have previously felt that the leadership might not bring the hostages to trial, despite all the threats, since there was nothing to be gained from provoking the Americans to armed intervention. But the internal pressure might now be such that this consideration is overruled.

Moi leads Kenya to the right, worrying other states

By Alastair Matheson

NAIROBI. — The demotion of Kenya's left-leaning Foreign Minister, Muriyua Waiyaki, has led to renewed speculation that President Daniel Arap Moi is subtly wooing South Africa.

Moi's policy has always been to keep an open door to the idea of dialogue with Pretoria, while condemning the evils of apartheid.

Waiyaki opposes the idea and has said so often, and in public. Moi's slogan for Kenya is nyayo, which translates roughly as 'keep in step', so Waiyaki's downfall came as no surprise.

He is now in charge of the new (and less important) Ministry of Energy. The new Foreign Minister is Robert Ouko, who has recently acted as Kenya's

contact with the European Common Market.

Ouko enjoys a much cosier relationship with Western nations than did Waiyaki, who saw his priority as the need to make friends in black Africa.

His cordiality towards Ethiopia's Mengistu Haile Mariam was an embarrassment to some Kenyan Ministers, who prefer to keep Socialist Ethiopia at arm's length.

It may be mere coincidence that the move comes at a time when South Africa is looking around for a potential grouping of African States on whom it can count to take a strong anti-Communist stand, if the Soviet Union or its proxies try to make any further inroads into African territory.

Any suggestion of formal links with South Africa is strenuously denied in Nairobi, where official cir-

cles discourage such speculation.

Waiyaki's demotion was part of an extensive Cabinet shake-up after last month's elections. There are many new faces in the government sworn in on December 12, the start of Kenya's sixteenth year of independence.

Moi, who became President in succession to the late Jomo Kenyatta, the Kikuyu tribal leader who took Kenya to independence, has retained only those Kenyatta men whom he regards as unswervingly loyal.

There have been rumblings by some Kikuyu traditionalists about the tribe's loss of influence in high quarters since Moi took over. Certainly the Kenyatta family no longer enjoys its former privileged position.

Mama Ngina, widow of the late president, is said to be wrestling with massive income tax demands. Son-in-law Udi Gecaga also seems to be in trouble. He is a top official in East Africa of the British multinational, Lonrho, and is understood to be considering an offer from Lonrho to run its Nigerian operation.

Lonrho's chief, the British tycoon, 'Tiny' Rowland, has a knack of sensing danger, and is believed to have suggested the move to Gecaga in order that Lonrho can remain in Kenya.

This was after Rowland discovered that Kenyatta's relatives were being linked by Moi and Attorney-General Charles Njonjo with the 'change the constitution group' allegedly plotting to keep Moi from succeeding Kenyatta. — (OFNS).

saudi press review

Newspapers Sunday carried different lead stories. While *Al-Riyadh* said in a banner headline that King Khaled will attend the 17th graduation ceremony at the King Faisal Air Academy, *Al-Jazirah* led with Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan's announcement on the U.S. supply of F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia early next year. *Al-Bilad*, in its lead story, quoted the Saudi Arabian Ambassador in Beirut Sheikh Ali Shaer as saying that the Kingdom has always supported the stability of Lebanon. *Okaz* made its lead story from the OPEC conference in Caracas and *Al-Medina* led with U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown's announcement on the formation of a special task force for quick action in the Middle East.

Al-Medina frontpaged the arrival of the deposed Shah of Iran in Panama and reported the Iranian students as pledging to put the

U.S. hostages on trial soon. In a separate front-page story it reported that the International Court of Justice at the Hague has issued a resolution on the release of the U.S. hostages in Iran. *Al-Jazirah* gave a front-page treatment to Libya's reported suspension of all aid to the Palestinian Fatah movement.

Dealing with foreign press campaigns against Saudi Arabia, *Al-Medina* said that, despite all their distortion of the Mecca incident, the facts remained clear to anyone who had a balanced mind and sound thinking. It added that the machinations of the tendentious elements have only brought Saudi Arabians further closer to their leadership. "The assault of the Haram by the deviationist group has further strengthened the people's determination to stand firm against the enemies without caring for any sacrifices," it added.

In a reference to Crown Prince Fahd's recent statement on the Haram incident and fabrications in foreign press, *Al-Jazirah* said editorially that "those hirelings and malicious elements who tried to exploit the Haram's sacrilege must know that the crime was trivial psychologically, mentally and materially. The criminals were a frenzied gang who assaulted everyone who dashed to purge the House of God from them. With their debased moral of the criminals could not have enabled them to make a plan, to face the situation with courage and to be prepared for an objective dialogue," the paper said.

It went on to say that foreign attempts to mar the good image and reputation of Saudi Arabia would never be able to lead it away from its course of progress, "nor would fabricated stories and lies ever influence the Kingdom's firm, determination to continue

on the path of progress and development."

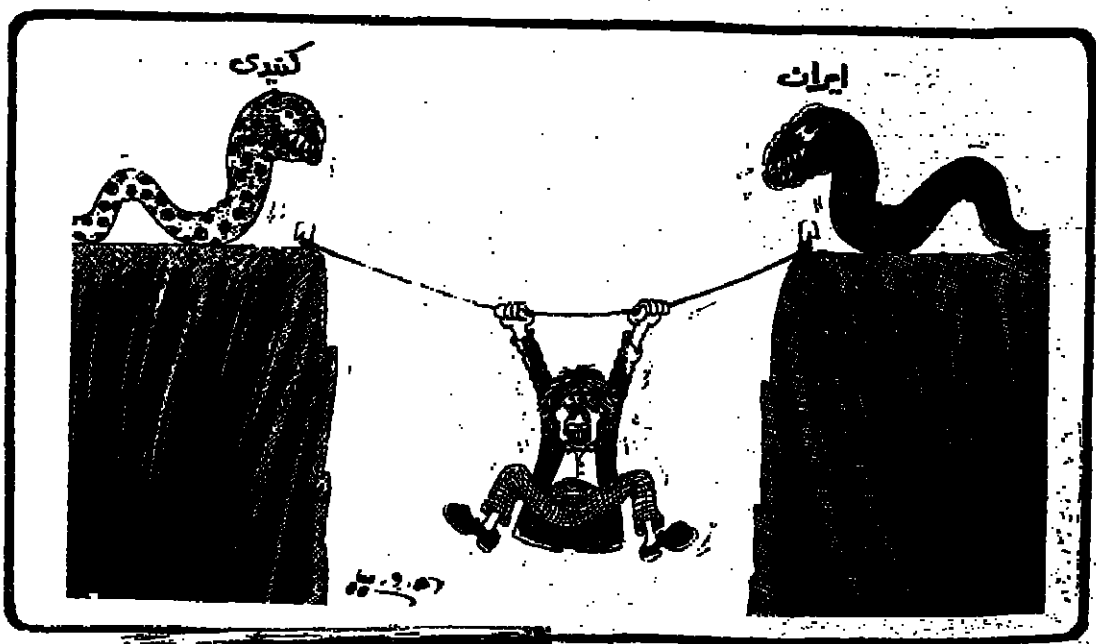
Writing editorially on the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Kingdom's attitude toward it, *Al-Riyadh* said that Saudi Arabia has been the only country which gave constant help and assistance to the PLO's Fatah movement. "The support given was not only because Fatah was the acknowledged representative of the people of Palestine but because it has been behind every correct scheme planned by the Palestinian revolution."

The paper added that Saudi Arabia has treated the Palestine case as a principal Arab issue and has remained sincere to this cause. Consequently, both enjoyed mutual respect and understanding, it said.

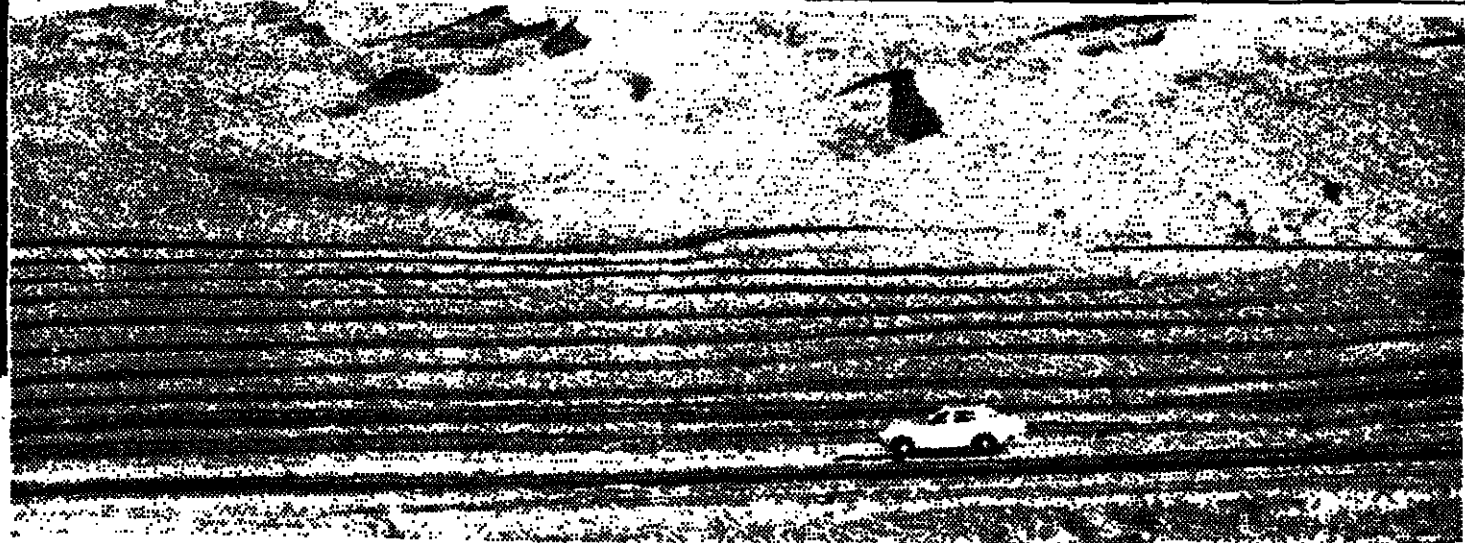
In this context, the paper said that many Arab regimes have been obliterated (the Palestinian) revolution as a whole, particularly

the PLO. Some of these regimes were committed to extend assistance to it which has not been paid for years despite the fact that their rulers revelled in abundant wealth. The differences between them and the PLO started going from bad to worse when their intentions became known and the PLO refused to play a positive role in favor of one leader or the other, the paper said.

On the eve of the OPEC conference in Caracas, Venezuela, *Okaz* said the oil prices were primarily affected by the behavior of the consumer countries which have not so far honored the resolutions adopted at the Tokyo economic summit. "The efforts exerted by the OPEC, and mainly Saudi Arabia, have provided ample evidence that the basic aim of the member states has been to provide a boost to the world economy by an introduction of moderate prices," it said.



هكذا من الضمير



Tales of the blacktop and the bedu

By JOHN ROSSANT

RIYADH — Americans are bedu stock underneath. We're looking for freedom while rising down the blacktop; we're large and reformed our tribal legions in endless strings of wadis and cities; we make our ghly encampments in aging hotels and find communion with a fellow human beings where we are. Perhaps we are maturing, but we are still, above all, a mobile people: to slow down is to be defeated.

Thus, with my nomadic birthright and my fragile Japanese car, I set off down the road, armed with a next-to-useless Operational Navigation Chart of the Arabian Peninsula embossed with such caveats as "Flying over IRAQ without prior permission is PROHIBITED". I doubt wise advice had I a sense. Somewhere, thousands of miles away, and long ago, I lost my U.S.A.F. map of the Middle East, the one with the cheery Egyptian dialogue on the margin, plaining to stranded airmen how to surrender politely and ask for water in Arabic and Hebrew. I don't know whether Farsi has been added to the later editions.

It was, for Arabia, a blustery monsoon; the storm clouds some which had broken the night before, hung low over the cut and sown land north of the city, I had an initial and horrible feeling of being Riyadh that the construction signs would never end. One could easily pick the rudiments of a city by carefully reading all the nopic self-advertisements. But eventually, past Sabounkh, all started to recede, and the city, with its concrete and steel utacles, was left behind. Now at the flat, or slightly undulating, ains. A buzzard circled to the right. Painted semis roared past, fling down from Kuwait, and the id taxis, with seemingly ranged drivers, played road mes with me. Far ahead, the rizon was broken by a road perpendicular to mine: I admired the giant geometry of the line of hicles passing each other in silence.

There is never any escape from a varied wrecks that litter the asides everywhere in the kingdom in a frozen ballet of stalle death. I remembered a ghly jaded Egyptian doctor,

down from a stint at a public clinic in Buraidah, telling me, only half in jest, that Nafudi road injuries were worse than the war wounded at the Egyptian Eastern front during the 1973.

Toward Hurmala the landscape becomes rugged, and the road courses through a narrow wadi. Old fortified villages of wattle and daub spring up. Some show very visible signs of the new Arabia: children playing soccer, schoolbuses, motorized wells, electricity. But some are deserted. Wind blowing through the crumbling remains. Perhaps the inhabitants were massacred in a bloody razzia long ago, or perhaps they just slowly drifted to the cities.

Just out of Majma'a the clouds dispersed in the west, and the sun gave a last curtain call before sinking into the copper hills. It was a heady, pregnant moment, and the atmosphere became a velvety thing on the desert, the last stretched rays of the sun playing on the motes in the cool air.

In the twilight, the fortified towns of the Sudair fled past. They are the most impressive towns of the Nafud, each ringed by imposing mud walls with their distinctive rignatural crenellations. The tall guard towers are silent now, and most of the streets are paved. Hyundai is doing the sewer system; Western Electric has installed another of their microwave towers for the P.T.T. Everywhere, change.

Night fell with a vengeance. I turned off the road at a small town with the narcotic name of Chat. It's an antique village with a decrepit fort, residence of a forgotten amir. At the end of the town's main street a neon sign: "Al-Hamdan Hotel and Restaurant". Vain hope — the welcoming inn turned out to be no more than a modest petrol station, two curbsome rigs fueling up in the dark. Not a "vacancy" sign in sight. I was determined to make Buraidah: there was really no alternative. Honda Civics aren't VW buses.

Finally, after miles of dark road and bright stars (the moon failed to show) Buraidah appeared, that "great civil township of the midland Nefud sand," as Doughty had described it a century ago. It's not much by night; few cities are. A lot of lights and non-descript buildings. The shops, only slightly small-

er versions of Riyadh's emporia, were shutting up for the night. "Fii funduq?" I asked a policeman. He pointed down the road.

I found it, a crumbling place, like an inexpensive family hotel in a drab English resort. The place was festooned with colored light-bulbs, most of them broken: perhaps they were intended to liven up a wedding, last year, or the year before. A sleepy Levantine checked me in; and I fell into a well-earned sleep in the cold air.

Tawfiq served me breakfast. He said he was from Beirut. "What are you doing in Buraidah?" I asked, as if I didn't know. He used to be a waiter at the Palm Beach, on the Corniche. They were the good days. He looked away and said sadly, "bas, all Yawm..." It's all changing so rapidly. I felt sorry for Tawfiq, who wished he were back in Lebanon. I felt sorry that he had to work in this rundown hotel with its cheerless strung lights, in a provincial city. Life could have been kinder.

Change. I heard on the shot-wave in my car the night before that Saudi Arabia will raise the price of its oil by over 30 per cent. It was Radio Australia.

The morning was cold, but history is such that people now survive the desert winters. I remembered the dreariness and despair of a Cairene winter some years ago, when the public funerals seemed to multiply. Here it is different.

The suq was lively. The women have a jewellery market all to themselves; it was the most active section of the suq. Doughty, again, remarked upon the women traders in the Buraidah suq. Old customs die hard.

"Don't smoke, don't smoke!" a young man in a stall shouted as I was about to light up. I put the cigarette away, and approached him. "Why did you say that?" "Mamnu," he said. Prohibited. "You might go to prison," he added. I was slightly bewildered, and hurried on.

They take attendance at the public mosque in Buraidah.

I left in the late morning after some explorations of the old town, and headed south, across the western Wadi Rimah. The dunes are high here, and the towns few. After Unayza the land flattens again.

Just out of Mithnab, a lone

beturbaned man beckoned me to stop by flailing his arms; thumbs, apparently, aren't used in Arabia. I stopped. "God keep you, God Keep you, we've been here since the morning." We? Two companions instantly materialized out of some bushes. It was an old trick, one I myself had used in my hitchhiking days. They needed to get to Shaqra, eighty kilometers down the road. After some debate over whether there was enough room for them and their three large shovels, they climbed in, and we started off.

They were Afghans, said the elder of them, seated next to me, "free" labourers, "like the Yemenis and Eritreans," down in Sajir and Shaqra. They had come to Madnab the day before to buy the shovels. The elder spoke fairly good Arabic: he had been working in the Kingdom for two years. His compatriots sat silently in the back.

When we rolled into dusty Sajir, they jumped out and hurried away with a quick thanks and a blessing.

These parts of the Nafud are flat, monumentally flat. No dunes, no wadis, no swellings of the land; only man-made excrescences, sections of pipe, high-voltage lines, a radio transmission tower in the distance. It's disturbing, maybe appalling, at least to those accustomed only to chopped-up urban terrains, where the true earth never shows. Here, it is an embarrassment of naked, relentless land. Some lines of Russian verse, written of the Baltic coastal plains:

What keeps hearts from falsehood in this flat region is that there is nowhere to hide and plenty of room for vision. Only sound needs echo and dreads its lack. A glance is accustomed to no glance back.

Between Marat and Uwaynid, not far from the humlet of Athithiah. There are ruins to the west. My car easily made it off the road onto the hard desert floor, much smoother than many a street in Riyadh. I felt a curious sense of freedom rushing along the desert in fourth gear, the bristly salt bushes scrubbing the car's underside. After a kilometer or two, I reached the first of the ruins, an old fort. I turned off the ignition, and everything became quite.

It was impossible to say how old they were, for there were many more of them, scattered around. Perhaps decades, perhaps centuries. They were of fairly rude construction, heavy mud walls enclosing a square central area. I thought for the briefest of moments that they might be pre-Islamic, when I saw, at the center of the first fort, what appeared to be a great stone altar. It was a well, of course, of carefully hewn stone. I peered down into the depths. No water now, just a rotting carcass of a hapless sheep far below.

I drove along the large plain to a few more of the forts, all silent now, then noticed a white pickup not far away. Human beings. I was curious.

They were all from Shaqra. Ahmad, perhaps sixty with a mouth full of gold, was a police inspector in the town. They asked about life in Riyadh and told me very pointedly how pleasant life was here. Indeed, they were right: the air was sweet and cool, and from this vantage point, nothing could be wrong with the world.

Ahmed offered a Craven 'A'. I told him about forbidden to smoke in the Buraidah suq. "Ah, that's Buraidah being the only place in the Kingdom one can't smoke," he said smugly. Shaqra is evidently more cosmopolitan. "When we were young" he said, "maybe thirty years ago, no one could smoke. We had to sneak off and have a cigarette and then get the smell off our breaths. Now, it's changed. 'Taghyir. Change. But, of course, women don't smoke." "Abidan, never, never, in the Nejd. But the women in the Hejaz, I hear they smoke. Here, never! Who would marry such a woman?"

He had married well. The women were sitting on the ground a few yards away. Many little girls, no boys. Ahmad didn't seem to mind having such a brood, but he addressed the prettiest little girl as 'sheikh' she would then run off, giggling. What was her real name? "Haifa," he said.

The sun was getting low and I left them to drive back across the packed earth to the highway. The traffic was getting heavy day-trippers returning to the city. Back to Riyadh, back to work.

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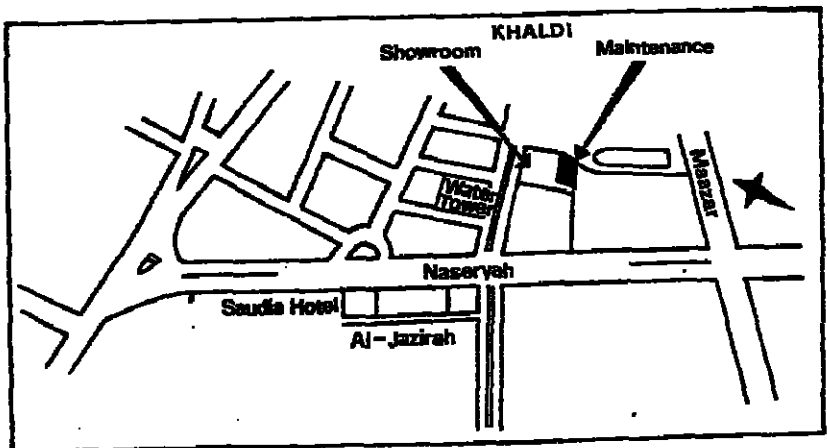
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Transkei still unrecognized

South African 'Bantustan' hamstrung by bankruptcy

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 16 (AP) — Three years after Transkei was designated an independent homeland by the white rulers of South Africa, the troubled territory still lacks international recognition. It also lacks money.

A confidential memorandum, leaked this week to South African newspapers, and allegedly authored by Transkei's finance secretary, claimed there isn't even enough money to pay the salaries of government workers.

The so-called republic, the first of three such homelands, was created from South Africa in 1976, amid much pomp and ceremony. In Umtata, the capital, the red, white and green flag was hoisted as a band played a new national anthem called 'Nkosi Sikelel' — Africa'. With just 2.5 million inhabitants of 25,000-square-kilometer parcel of land on the south-east coast

of South Africa became citizens of Transkei.

"The 200th year of America's independence will soon be followed by another historic event—the independence of Transkei," a handout from the South African embassy in Washington gushed at the time.

The event was ignored by all countries of the world. Only South Africa recognized the new republic. Today, not even South Africa has formal diplomatic relations with the Transkei. The Transkei government broke off relations in 1978 over a land dispute with South Africa.

The severing of relations meant little. Borders remain open and Transkei remains economically dependent on handouts from the white-minority government in Pretoria. South Africa annually gives it \$138 million in cash.

But even with this help, a

"strictly confidential" memorandum written by the Transkei finance ministry said only \$7 million remain in the state coffers, that the country is \$45 million in the red this year and that there isn't enough money to pay the salaries of Transkei's 30,000 civil servants.

Finance Minister Ramsay Madikizela told the *Rand Daily Mail* newspaper Wednesday that the document had been leaked to the press "by enemies of Transkei wishing to create a damaging impression of the actual situation."

The memo also said that South Africa said no to a request for a \$42 million loan but wouldn't object to South African banks putting together a private loan package up to a maximum of \$24 million, if it was repaid in two years.

Transkei, and its two colleagues — Bophuthatswana and Venda — are part of an official strategy by South Africa to grant "independence" to black tribal homelands in its territory.

Critics of South Africa's apartheid politics, claim granting "independence" to the homelands robs the 19 million black majority of its political rights in South Africa by making blacks "citizens" of pseudo-republics and non-citizens of South Africa, so the 4.5 million white minority can continue to rule.

When Transkei became independent, the South African government public relations machinery proclaimed that Transkei was far more prosperous than many developing nations.

But *The Post*, the major black newspaper of South Africa, said in an editorial Wednesday that it sympathizes with Transkei's inhabitants and "the news that the Transkei government is bankrupt leaves one absolutely cold."



ALMOST A RECORD: A Buffalo, New York, resident shovels snow from a sidewalk in front of a store recently. More than 20 inches of snow, a near record, fell in a 24-hour period but still stores opened for business.

Soviets worried

Peking, Tokyo bury the hatchet

TOKYO, Dec. 16 (OFNS) — Old enemies, Japan and China appear to have embarked on a joint policy to defend their interests in East Asia.

When Japan's prime minister, Masayoshi Ohira, arrived in Peking two weeks ago on a five-day visit, he blithely described the Japanese conquest of much of the Chinese mainland in the 1930s as "against the natural flow of history."

He and China's premier, Hua Guofeng, had just agreed to cooperate in defusing tensions in the region's traditional powder keg, the Korean peninsula.

The essence of the deal was that Japan and China would renew efforts to reunite the two Koreas, but diplomatic analysts here viewed it as confirming that China

would press North Korea not to threaten the South militarily.

"The last thing China can afford is a war on the Korean peninsula in which the Soviet Union could gain the upper hand," said a Western military source.

True, Hua appeared to have startled Ohira with a suggestion that China and Japan "join hands in democracy-building in South Korea," but Ohira easily brushed aside that notion by countering that every country had the right to adopt its own "system."

Japanese officials try to maintain the myth that "we deal equally with China and the Soviet Union," but Ohira has criticized the despatch of fresh Soviet troops to the region, and has frequently expressed concern about the presence of a Soviet division on three

of four small Japanese-claimed islands overrun by Russian forces in the last week of World War II.

It was little more than a year ago — in August 1978 — that Japan and China elicited outraged denunciation by the Kremlin for concluding a treaty of peace and friendship that Soviet officials viewed as tantamount to a military alliance.

In fact, the Chinese and Japanese leaders appear far more concerned about expanding trade.

Ohira took to Peking an agreement for long-term loans of \$500 billion for six huge construction projects. The agreement commits Japan to lending \$200 million in the first year — and gives China 30 years to repay, with a 10-year grace period and 13 per cent annual interest thereafter.

San Salvador rebels die in foiled attempt to take over village

SAN SALVADOR, Dec. 16 (AP) — Six leftists have been killed in what police sources described as an attempt to take over a small town 40 kilometers northwest of here.

They did not say who repulsed the leftists, but they said Saturday, the leftists belonged to the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), the largest of about a dozen leftist groups trying to topple the military-civilian junta that rules El Salvador.

BPR members contacted at the National University here called the police version false and denounced the deaths as "a massacre against the people."

A judge in the town of Esperanza where the shooting took place said he saw six bodies and that other people including women and children had been wounded. He did not say how many.

The government sources claimed the leftists were shooting at unarmed residents.

On Friday guerrillas holding an American Peace Corps volunteer and other hostages in two markets said they had seized three more markets to press demands for reduced municipal taxes and lower rent for stall-vendors.

The February 28 Popular Leagues, which occupied the San Jacinto and Central Markets Wednesday, said Friday they took the San Miguelito and Modelo markets in Santa Ana, about 48 kilometers from here.

The LP-28 took seven Salvadoreans hostage in the Central Market and seized Peace Corps volunteer Deborah Loff and five

others at the San Jacinto Market. They released four hostages from San Jacinto late Thursday, but continued to hold Miss Loff, 24, and the administrator, Oscar Abdon Orellana.

It was not immediately known if the guerrillas had taken hostages at the Friday market seizures.

A 17-year-old LP-28 activist said for the first time Friday the guerrillas are armed but he did not identify the type of weapons they had.

Tanzanians, Ugandans clash at soccer game

KAMPALA, Dec. 16 (R) — Police fired into the air and troops were called in to break up a battle between rival soccer fans at a friendly match between Ugandan and Tanzanian teams Saturday.

Tanzanian spectators, mostly soldiers in civilian clothes, stormed on to the pitch and attacked the referee and members of the Ugandan team after they scored their second goal to lead 2-1. Several of the players were taken to hospital.

Eyewitnesses said fighting also broke out in the crowd. Police fired warning shots and truck loads of Tanzanian troops were rushed to Kampala's Nakivubo Stadium to restore order.

There are 20,000 Tanzanian troops stationed in Uganda after a combined operation with exile forces last May to topple ousted President Idi Amin.

Italy announces measures to fight rampant terrorism

ROME, Dec. 16 (AP) — The Italian government has announced stiff new measures in its battle against terrorism including mandatory life sentences for the killing of judges and policemen.

The government Saturday also lifted key police officials in a bid to strike at escalating violence in northern Italy where recent bold attacks have included a mass kidnapping "by leftist terrorists who wounded 10 persons at a business school in Turin."

The new measures, which must be approved by parliament, give police the power to hold terrorist suspects for up to 48 hours for questioning without their lawyers and, in the pursuit of terrorists, to search homes and entire buildings

if necessary.

While proposing mandatory life terms — the death penalty is outlawed under the Italian constitution — the government at the same time proposed reduced sentences for those terrorists who cooperate with police.

Another measure required banks to identify all persons who make deposits or withdrawals of over \$22,000, a move aimed at preventing the recycling of money gained from ransoms from kidnappings.

The measures were announced after a meeting of Christian Democrat Premier Francesco Cossiga's cabinet. The government has been coming under mounting terrorism.

WHO concentrates on six

World still plagued by killer diseases

LONDON, Dec. 16 (OFNS) — Malaria, it was announced last October, has been wiped out, starting, but it's one down, 19 to go — the number of diseases still killing millions of people a year, mainly in developing countries (139 is the World Health Organization's figure for major categories of disease).

The organization's Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases is concentrating on six major killers. One is leprosy, which affects about 10 million people. The others are: Malaria. Most widespread disease, affects 200 million people, about a quarter of African adults suffer from it at some time. A million children die of it every year. India and Sri Lanka, where it had regressed, it is now resurgent. Schistosomiasis (200 million).

Caused by small worms that live in blood, vessels and can affect bowel, bladder or intestine. Often a disease of rural development — artificial lakes and canals contain large numbers of larvae. Also known as Bilharzia.

Filaria (300 million). Adult worms live in lymphatic vessels and nodes. Elephantiasis is one form, another is river blindness. In some parts of Africa, one person in 10 is blinded by it.

Trypanosomiasis (10 million). In South America, takes the form of Chagas' Disease, and attacks the heart; in Africa, takes the form of sleeping sickness.

Leishmaniasis (slightly less than trypanosomiasis and leprosy). Kills by destroying the face.

Funds for a program on this scale must come from governments and foundations. At the

moment the total world-wide research budget on all tropical diseases is about \$30 million, the cost of a few miles of motorway — the U.S. spends more than that on cancer research. It is a long-term project and will probably take decades.

There is growing urgency. Already malnutrition compounds the diseases, and growing populations and dwindling food supplies will increase disease and make control more difficult.

The six main killers of children in developing countries are: diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, and tuberculosis. The average cost of immunization against all six is about \$3 a child; fewer than 10 per cent of the 80 million children born each year in these countries are being immunized.

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Scientists repairing engine after flight of rope satellite fails

IS, Dec. 16 (R) — Technicians began repairing a rocket engine which prevented the launching of the European communications satellite Arianespace Ariane in French Guiana Saturday.

The engine, called the set-back or psychological flop but a technical disaster, was located in an engine room and at least 180 hours of work will be needed before another attempt can be made.

Pol Pot derides interview with journalists

PHNOM PENH, Dec. 16 (AP) — Pol Pot, leader of the Khmer Rouge, derided an interview with journalists in a "desperate position" last week with Japanese journalists in the Vietnamese border area.

project occurred a year ago when Intelsat, the U.S.-based international telecommunications organization, placed an order for one Ariane and took an option on another.

Ariane is twice the size of the ill-fated Europa-Two rocket, which blew up less than three minutes after it was launched from Kourou in November 1975.

Technicians racing to repair the fault before highly corrosive fuels damage the Ariane's first stage also encountered another difficulty.

The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has given Christmas leave to personnel manning a key tracking station at Ascension Island.

They will be on holiday from Dec. 22 to Jan. 4 and some other arrangements must be found if a test flight is to take place during that period.

An extensive network of stations in Kourou, Brazil and other parts of the world will track the rocket's trajectory, but NASA's station on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic covers the last phase of the flight, when the launcher's third stage and payload are fired into orbit.

"Unless this job is done, we may encounter further delays," one engineer said.



BACKSTAGE VISIT: Actor Henry Fonda, center, visits backstage at New York's Barrymore Theater with Mia Farrow and Anthony Perkins after a performance last week of 'Romantic Comedy' on Broadway. Perkins and Farrow were co-stars in play.

Elephants, rhinos killed

Zambian game faces extinction

LONDON, Dec. 16 (OFNS) — Two of the last great land mammals, the black rhino and the elephant, are being slaughtered on a vast scale in what is perhaps Africa's greatest wildlife sanctuary, Zambia's Luangwa National Park.

The 10,000-square-mile reserve is largely unguarded, an open road for the meat and horn poachers. An aerial survey in October suggests the area now has about 3,000 rhino, compared with 8,000 in 1972. The elephant population has fallen from 90,000 to 50,000 in the same period.

Recently, an anti-poaching squad swept deeply inside the park. Several hours' tracking unearthed a poachers' camp set up nine days previously. The tally for those nine days was 15 elephants, one rhino and a selection of other, smaller animals. The tusks and horn on world markets would have brought about \$80,000.

There were 17 poachers, working an area which had not seen a patrol for two years. Their 20-mile hunting trail was dotted with "service" posts for the carriers taking the tusks, horn and meat out of the park.

The squad caught the hired marksman, five helpers and the "go between" whose job was to organize the kill on behalf of the gang's financial backer, allegedly a government official.

The gang was probably only one of several working that part of the park. When the poachers appeared before a local magistrate, the hunter was fined \$800, the go-between \$900 and the camp workers were imprisoned for four months each. Their guns were returned to them.

These derisory penalties, easily met from the gang's purse, are the norm in Zambian courts. The law permits five-year prison sentences and fines of \$33,000, but such punishment is seldom exacted.

Lee Clark, who organizes photographic safaris, says, "The fact is that poaching is the best form of living a man can make in this country at present. In two weeks a man can earn five years' salary."

President Kenneth Kaunda, interviewed at his safari lodge on the banks of the Luangwa River, said he was "shocked" when earlier this year one of his senior ministers, convicted of a number

of serious wildlife offences, was fined rather than imprisoned.

The president's concern over the ineffectiveness of the courts has led his government to set up its own training scheme for prosecutors who will take over game cases from the police in the hope of securing more convictions and heavier penalties.

In Florida

Plunging balloon kills four

DAVIE, Florida, Dec. 16 (AP) — A woman and three men taking a ride in a hot air balloon plummeted to their deaths Saturday after their craft collided with power lines and was engulfed by flames, authorities said.

One victim attempted a desperate scramble to escape from the burning balloon, witnesses said.

"There was a white flash and flames started shooting out and the person on the rope looked like a fiery doll," said Marietta Benevento, who had been watching the balloon approach from her home.

A distraught Lois Mowday said

Two killed in demonstrations Madrid tense as funerals held

MADRID, Dec. 16 (R) — Amid high tension in Madrid after two nights of street violence, several thousand mourners have attended the funeral of two young demonstrators shot dead in a clash with police.

The mourners Saturday carried the coffin of one victim shoulder-high to the spot where he was fatally wounded. Others clutched red carnations as they marched to the scene of the shootings.

Police kept in the background and no incidents were reported at the funerals, which were held separately.

According to the authorities, Jose Luis Montes Gil, 23, and Emilio Martinez Menendez, 20, were killed when six policemen fired into the air Thursday night to disperse demonstrators who attacked their jeep.

The killings sparked further violence Friday night when small groups of demonstrators barricaded streets and set fire to two buses and two private cars.

Riot police firing rubber bullets and smoke bombs fought the demonstrators for three hours and made more than 50 arrests. Four people were injured.

The Madrid authorities Friday night temporarily banned street demonstrations saying police had evidence that highly violent groups planned to disrupt them. Demonstrations were also prohibited in Spain's second city, Barcelona.

Socialist and Communist political parties and trade unions called

off demonstrations planned in the next few days to protest against a labor relations bill under discussion in parliament.

Mrs. Gandhi hit over remark on election rigging

NEW DELHI, Dec. 16 (R) — Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has been taken to task after local press reports that she told foreign diplomats next month's elections might be rigged.

Mrs. Gandhi's political opponents Saturday also took strong exception to a defense of her 21-month emergency rule she was reported to have made at a diplomatic luncheon here.

Last Thursday's trouble began when a group of young demonstrators burst into a peaceful trade union march. Their action followed a day of sporadic protests by students against government proposals for reforming universities.

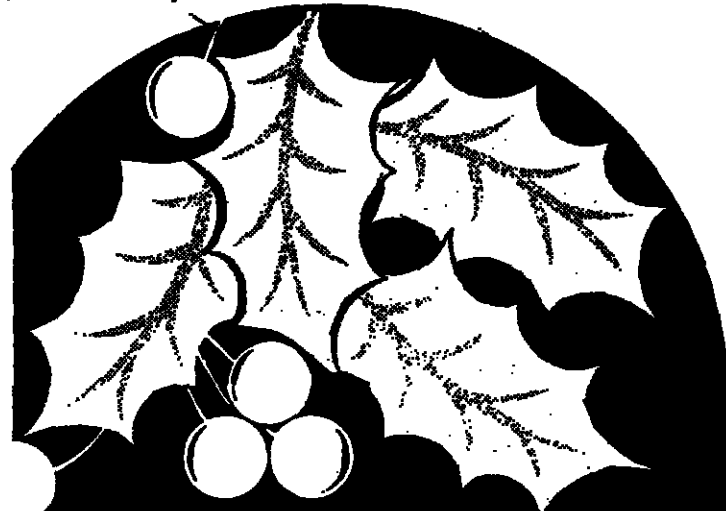
Saturday's funerals were attended by students and far-left political supporters. At the scene of the shootings, mourners sang the Socialist anthem, the International, and kept a one-minute silence with clenched fists raised.

The six policemen who have admitted using firearms during the clashes have been questioned by an investigating magistrate. But the independent Madrid daily *El Pais* said Saturday there was evidence that other policemen fired shots.

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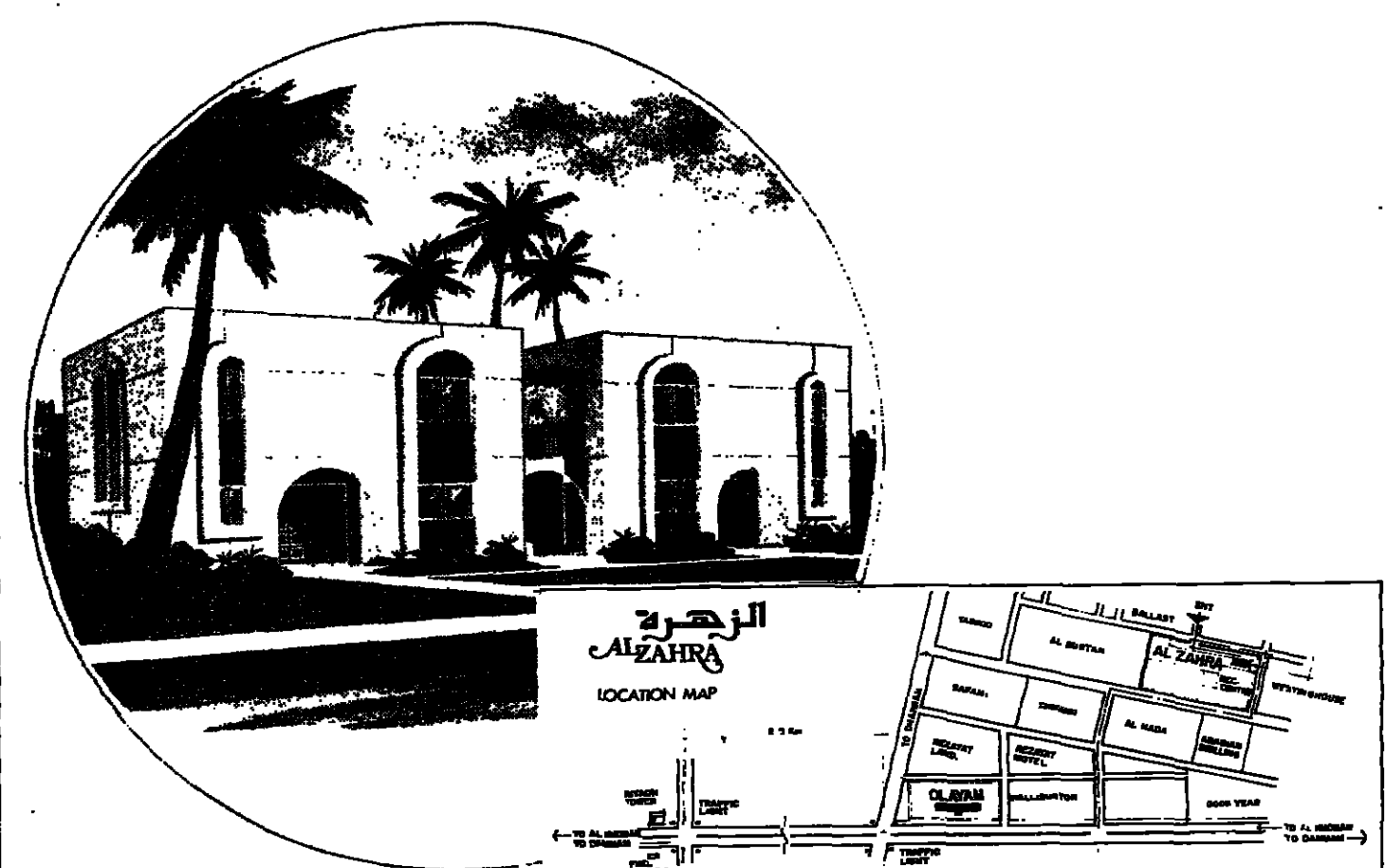
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Carlton al Moaibed Hotel

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Both houses are in prime position in our newly built Al-Zahra compound in Al-Khobar

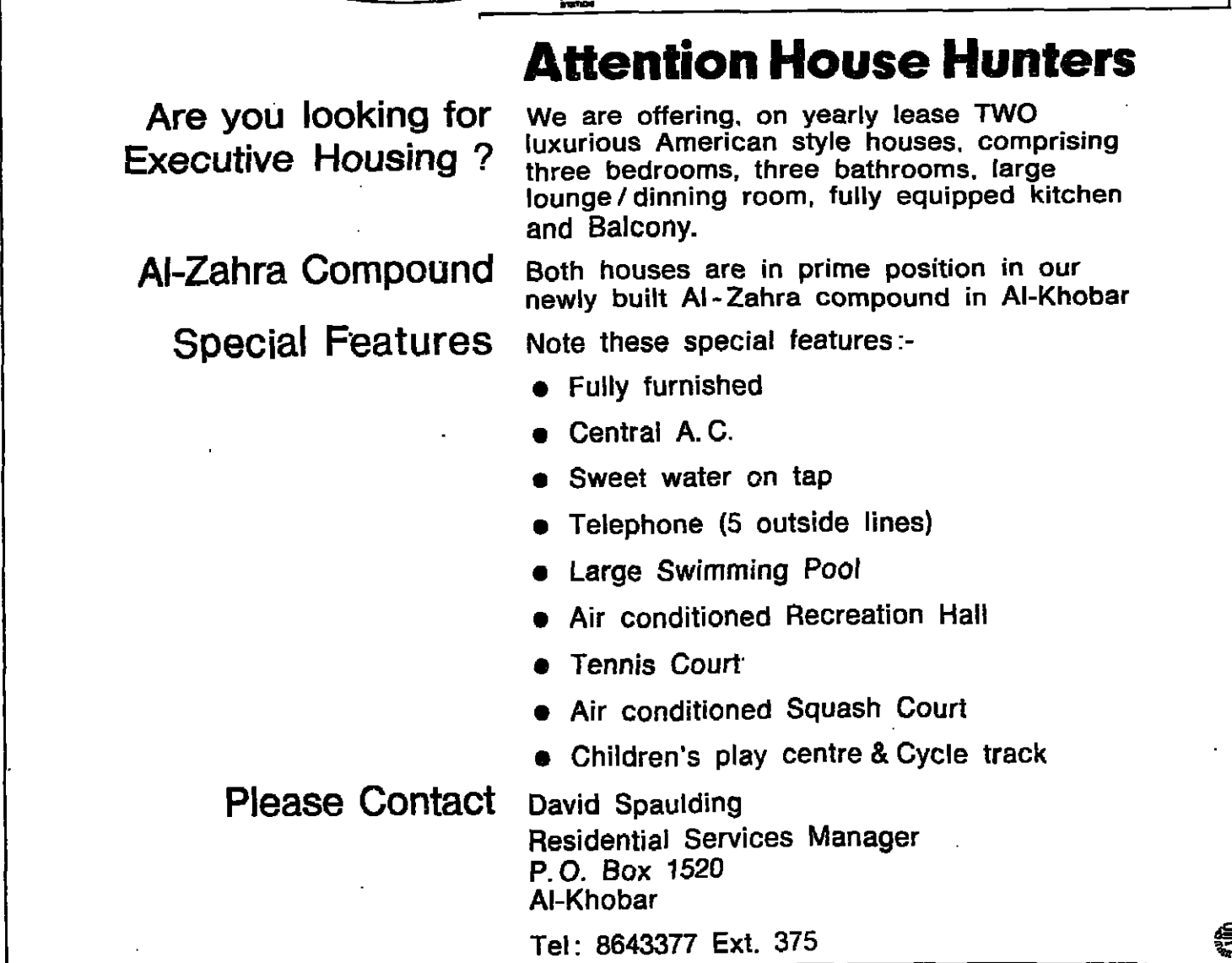
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Al-Khobar
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LOCATION MAP

Kuwait to cut oil production by 25 % in April

KUWAIT, Dec. 16 (R) — Kuwait will reduce its oil production by 25 per cent starting April 1, the mass circulation *Al-Qabas* newspaper said Sunday, quoting an official oil source.

The Kuwaiti government had said earlier that the cutback by half a million barrels a day on the daily production of two million barrels would be effective next month.

The official said that the new date would coincide with the end of the winter season when there would be less demand on oil.

However, crude oil production in Qatar last month rose to 15.7 million barrels from 14.5 million barrels in October, according to official figures released by the oil ministry Sunday.

But exports were down to 14.9 million barrels from 15.6 million barrels in October.

The average daily production in November was 525,852 barrels against 456,197 barrels in the previous month.

Qatar is the smallest oil producer among the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

In another development the secretary general of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) was quoted Sunday as calling on producing states to raise their domestic

prices for oil.

Dr. Ali Attiga told the Beirut weekly newsletter *Al-Nahar Arab Report and Memo* that it was "no longer economically justifiable that oil products are sold in member countries only seven to 10 per cent of the world market price."

A domestic energy policy had become vital in the producing states, the representative of the 11-nation OAPEC said.

"I think it is time petroleum product prices in member countries were raised, especially oil products and other forms of energy consumed mainly by middle and higher income groups such as gasoline and electric power," Dr. Attiga was quoted as saying.

Exception could be made for low income groups and industry using oil-fuel-generated electric power, he added.

Dr. Attiga said that he believed the prices of refined products in exporting countries were so low that a valuable resource was being wasted.

Seven OAPEC members belong to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which sets the official price of crude.

Some OPEC members have criticized consuming countries for their waste of oil.

Soviet bloc triples production of cars

BERLIN, Dec. 16 (AP) — Car production has tripled in the Soviet bloc in the past 10 years, but most would-be East European motorists must still wait years for a car, a West German study shows.

Relying heavily on Western technology, Communist factories turned out 2.1 million cars in 1978, and production of three million autos a year is forecast by 1985, the German Institute of Economic Research in West Berlin said.

This is far too few to satisfy the demand from auto-hungry citizens in the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, the institute concluded.

"For the time being, private cars will remain a luxury item in Comecon," it said in a new analysis of the automotive industry in the seven-nation communist economic group.

Autos are too expensive for most Soviet bloc wage earners despite rising purchasing power. The institute calculated that a Russian-made Fiat, the Lada, costs the equivalent of 41 months wages for the average Soviet citizen.

The same car would cost an East German 20 months wages, a Czechoslovak 25 months and a Hungarian 30 months. A Pole would pay 39 months wages for the equivalent car, a Polski-Fiat 125, the institute said.

East Germany's tiny Trabant, with a fiberglass body and a two-stroke engine, is the cheapest car sold in Eastern Europe. Still, it costs eight months of an average East German's income — 9,500 East German marks.

The Soviet Union's least expensive car, the Zaporozhets, takes 26 months of the average Russian wage, the institute said.

In Poland, where private ownership has quadrupled since 1970 to 1.8 million cars, the demand has caused used auto prices to "verge on madness," a Warsaw newspaper reported this October.

Practically the only way Poles can get a new car without waiting for years is to pay for it in scarce Western currency. But even then the delivery time takes up to a year, Warsaw residents said.

The delivery time for new Polski-Fiat 125 cars is now six years for buyers who pay in zlotys. But they can drive the car for three years and sell it at a profit, the

sources said.

The Polski 125 lists new at 187,500 zlotys. The average Pole earns 5,000 zlotys a month.

Some Poles who travel to the West purchase new or used cars and bring them home, shunning off import taxes of 100 zlotys (\$3 per kilogram) of the cars weight.

The institute said 13 million cars were registered in the seven Comecon nations last year, an average of 35 cars per 1,000 inhabitants.

East Germany, the most prosperous country in the bloc, had 143 cars per 1,000 residents, followed by Czechoslovakia with 129 cars. The Soviet Union and Romania shared last place with 19 cars per 1,000 population, it said. By comparison, West Germany had 350 cars per thousand population in 1978.

The Soviet Union led 1978 production figures with 1.3 million autos. Poland was second with 326,000 cars, followed by Czechoslovakia 176,000, East Germany 171,000, Romania 72,000 and Bulgaria 15,000. Hungary built some buses but no cars.

Although triple the 1968 output, the 2.1 million total represents only a modest 6 per cent of worldwide auto production, the institute said.

West Germany alone produced 3.6 million autos in 1978, far outstripping the entire Comecon.

The report noted that more than half the Soviet bloc cars are built under licensing arrangements with Western builders.

The Soviet Lada and Polski-Fiat, for example, are built under license from the Italian company, and Romania's Dacia is a copy of France's Renault.

Exports to the West contribute the new cars crunch. The institute noted that 231,000 cars, one of every nine built in 1978, were sold in the West to earn hard currency.

Communist governments rarely import Western autos for sale to their people because they must pay in scarce Western money or with goods which could be sold for hard currency.

East Germany is an exception. It bought 10,000 Volkswagen Golf Models (Rabbits) two years ago from the West German automotive giant to ease clamors of buyers.

High pay or unemployment

'British workers getting the message'

LONDON, Dec. 16 — When the engineering strike was settled in early October, it was felt that the employers had suffered a significant defeat in being obliged to give up the principle of the 40 hour basic working week. Truly it was agreed that the 39 — hour week would not be adopted throughout the engineering industry until November 1980; and the fact that some companies in this industry already had a 39-hour week long before the argument began. But the engineering employees had made an issue of this point and had been frightened into a climbdown. With this in view, and with huge wage claims outstanding in many industries (25 per cent at Vauxhall, 30 per cent at British Leyland 65 per cent in the coal mines) it seemed the U.K. was all set for a winter of bitter industrial strife and horrifyingly large wage settlements.

However, the climate has changed appreciably. The first break in the clouds was at Chrysler where, after a prolonged stoppage, the unions backed down and accepted the management's original offer of 5 1/2 per cent plus benefits linked to productivity.

Next came the embattled British Leyland where the shop stewards argued noisily for rejection of Michael Edwards' recovery plan which will involve major retrenchment. Edwards insisted on a ballot which, with a high turnout, revealed overwhelming support for his plan. Yet the more militant shop stewards were not prepared to accept the vote of the majority of the workers they are supposed to represent. The leading militant, Communist shop steward Derek Robinson, organized a protest in which leaflets were distributed calling for a wide range of sabotaging tactics designed to "destroy the Edwards plan."

Sir Michael's next move wasn't exactly characteristic of the British management behavior to which we have become accustomed. So often, management tends to accept union power as an irresistible force. Sir Michael Edwards proved instead to be an immovable object. He sacked Robinson. The widespread strikes that immediately brought most of

Leyland to a standstill did not last long. Support crumbled quickly and in only eight days the strikes were stopped by a face-saving formula. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers would hold an enquiry into Robinson's conduct, but the company would have no obligation to restate him.

Thirdly, the National Coal Board, faced with an enormous claim of up to 65 per cent, they put in a first offer of 15 per cent which was quickly stepped up to 20 per cent. High, certainly, but not vastly in excess of inflation and trifling in relation to the claim. The National Union of Mineworkers is traditionally the toughest nut in industry to crack. Their leaders' strike call was defeated — admittedly by a narrow majority — in national pithead ballots.

Meanwhile, leaving aside the headline, hitting struggles of the big corporations, information from the heartlands of British industry is that many companies are settling at rates below the present inflation rate (which is approaching 18 per cent gross but more like 14 per cent after adjust-

ing for the July increase in value added tax).

So the evidence is that British workers are getting the message that excessive wage increases not only defeat their own object by causing excessive inflation, but are likely to make British industry even more uncompetitive and thus lead to further unemployment. The extravagant claims and obstructive tactics of many union leaders are being shown to be unrepresentative of their members' expectations. Now legislation is on the way to weaken the closed shop and thus the ability of unions to compel workers to join them. This must mean that in future unions will have to be more sensitive to the real aims of their members, many of them are well aware that it makes better sense to preserve the health of the firms that employ them than to win huge paper wage increases and block technological progress.

Supplied by: Saudi Research & Investments Ltd., Ground floor, Bishara Building, Medina Road, Jeddah P.O. Box 6474, Tel.: 53906. For all types of investments.

Group of 77 meets today in Havana

HAVANA, Dec. 16 (R) — More than 100 Third World countries begin a five-day ministerial conference Monday aimed at drawing up a joint strategy to demand that developed nations give them far greater help to industrialize.

The "Group of 77", which has grown to 119 member-countries since it was founded in 1963, is meeting to prepare for a United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) conference in New Delhi next month.

The Havana gathering will try to share policies aimed at stimulating 25 per cent of the world's industry in the Third World by the year 2000, diplomatic sources said.

This target was set at a Group of 77 conference in Lima, Peru, in 1975, but at the present rate of growth it looks far from likely to be achieved, Cuban sources said.

In 1975, developing countries had six per cent of the world's industry. This has risen to nine per cent, but is concentrated mainly in five countries — Brazil, Malaysia, South Korea, Mexico and Taiwan — the sources said.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Quoted at 6:00 P.M. Sunday

	SAMA	Cash	Transfer
U.S. Dollar	3.37	3.377	3.3725
Pound Sterling	7.39	7.46	7.46
Deutsche Mark (100)	193.00	196.00	196.00
Swiss F (100)	208.00	213.00	212.50
French F (100)	83.00	83.00	83.00
Italian Lira (10,000)	42.00	41.50	41.80
Lebanese Lira (100)		98.00	97.30
Syrian Lira (100)		78.50	86.90
Egyptian Pound		4.45	4.52
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.35	12.35
Jordanian Dinar		11.35	11.30
Emirates Dirham (100)		89.60	89.60
Qatari Riyal (100)		91.25	91.25
Bahraini Dinar		8.96	8.96
Iranian Riyal (100)		26.00	—
Iraqi Dinar (100)		9.40	—
Yemeni Riyal (100)		74.40	74.00
Moroccan Dirham (100)		82.50	89.50
Indian Rupee (100)		—	41.40
Pakistani Rupee (100)		—	34.20
Gold kg.		50,000.00	—
10 Tolas bar		5,850.00	—
Silver kg.		—	—
Japanese Yen (1,000)	13.90	—	14.15
Canadian Dollar	2.87	3.00	—
Belgian Franc (1,000)	119.00	115.00	—
Dutch Guilder (1,000)	176.00	175.00	175.00
Spanish Peso		50.00	51.20
Greek Drachma (1,000)		82.00	—
Philippines Peso (1,000)		—	47.00
Singapore		—	1.57

Cash and Transfer rates supplied by Al-Rajhi Company for Currency Exchange and Commerce, Gabel St., Jeddah — Tel.: 23815.

PORTS AUTHORITY

JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT
SHIPS MOVEMENTS UPTO 0700 HOURS ON THE
16TH DECEMBER, 1979
27TH MOHARRAM, 1400

BERTH	VESSEL	AGENT	CARGO	ARRIVAL
4	Isa I	Abuhal	Timber	11-12-79
6	Mahavijay	SEA	Barley/General	15-12-79
7	Doriles	Alpha	Bagged Barley	14-12-79
8	New Lark	Orri	Rice/Melons/Timber/General	10-12-79
10	Admiral Fawcett	O.C.E.	Veg/Chicken	13-12-79
11	America Star	Barber	Feed/General	15-12-79
13	Sold Royal	Fayez	Ro Ro Units	15-12-79
15	Al Riyadh	Ocean	Timber/General	13-12-79
16	Pils Burg	Razzyet	Containers	15-12-79
19	Schilde	Roloco	Auto/General	14-12-79
20	Seaport SCSA	Wharfedale	Wheat/Barley	10-12-79
22	Capetan/Marinos	Kanoo	Containers/General	14-12-79
23	Isa	Rad Sea	Marble/General	14-12-79
24	Marito Polo	Alasbah	Frozen Poultry	13-12-79
26	Blue Ocean	Basboud	Loading	15-12-79
41	Palma	Alpha	Sugar	11-12-79
42	Prometheus	O.C.E.	Barley	14-12-79
43	Yousif	O.C.E.	Frozen Chicken	14-12-79
RoRo	Mercantien	Orri	Containers/RoRo	15-12-79
2	Transpore	Abdullah	RoRo Units	15-12-79

KING ABDUL AZIZ PORT, DAMMAM
SHIP MOVEMENTS UPTO 0700 HOURS
ON 27.1.1400/16.12.1979 — CHANGES
PAST 24 HOURS.

BERTH	SHIP	AGENT	CARGO	ARRIVAL
4	Isa	Kanoo	General	15-12-79
7	Admiral Star	Gulf	General	13-12-79
9	Thera	H. Speed	Steel Bars	11-12-79
10	Penn-Y	Gulf	Loading Urea	13-12-79
13	Alfa Suda	Kanoo	General	13-12-79
17	Agnes Ventura	U.E.P.	Steel Products	15-12-79
21	Plus Pine (D.B.)	Alinsa	Bulk Cement	11-12-79
22	Al Genib	Kanoo	Containers	15-12-79
26	Nedon	U.E.P.	Barley In Bags	13-12-79
27	Herb Everett	Orri	Bananas	15-12-79
31	Lady Of Lore	O.C.E.	Maize In Bags	8-12-79
32	Koski	U.E.P.	Barley In Bags	10-12-79
33	Lebanis — II	S.C.S.A.	Sugar In Bags	5-12-79
34	Lorina	Gulf	Barley In Bags	13-12-79
36	World Youth (D.B.)	S.M.C.	Bulk Cement	20-12-79
38	Sea Trade	Gosali	Cement In Bags	14-12-79

2. RECENT ARRIVALS.

BERTH	SHIP	AGENT	CARGO	ARRIVAL
4	Caledonia	I.A.C.C.	Containers	15-12-79
7	President Eisenhower	SAITE	Containers	15-12-79
9	Herb Everett	Orri	Banana	15-12-79
10	Agnes Ventura	U.E.P.	Steel Products	15-12-79
13	Mercantien	Kanoo	General	15-12-79
17	Al Genib	Kanoo	Containers	15-12-79

SGB Lightweight Access Towers

FOR A SOLID, SAFE WORKING PLATFORM.

SO SIMPLE TO ERECT.

SGB Lightweight Access Towers provide a solid platform for all maintenance and repair work. And they are easily erected in a matter of minutes.

No nuts or bolts. Components slot together with the minimum of effort — erection is fast and simple.

22 platform heights. We can supply a vast range of tower heights up to 10.7m, in a choice of three platform sizes: 1.5m, 2.1m or 3.0m square.

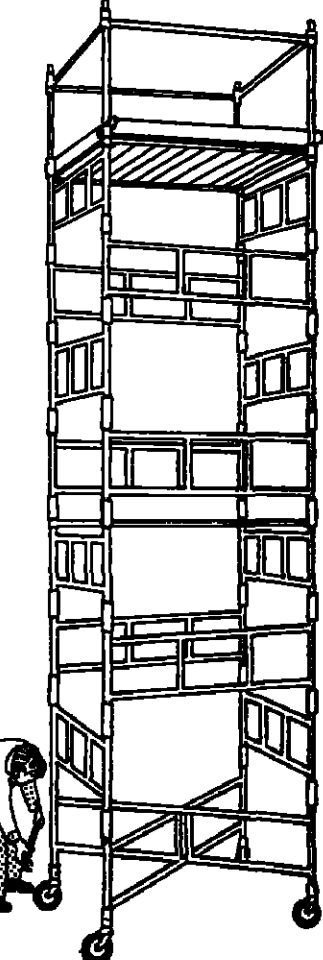
Galvanised finish. All components (except castors) are fully galvanised against rust to give a really tough finish.

Simple to erect. No specialist labour is needed — the speed and simplicity of assembling the prefabricated frame sections can lead to a big savings in labour costs.

Mobile or static. SGB Lightweight towers are available as static or mobile units with a choice of steel or rubber castors, all with dual locking features for absolute security.

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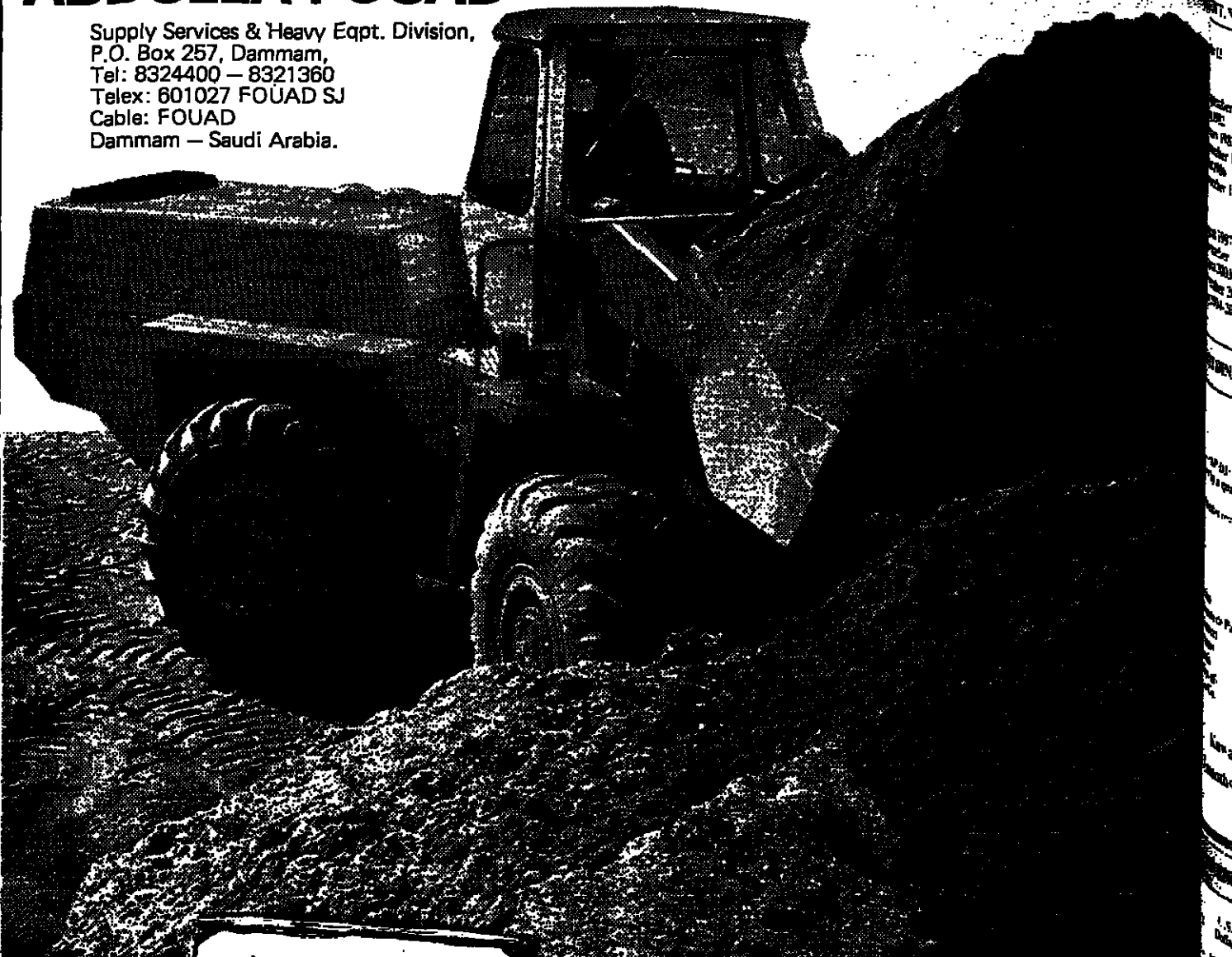


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مكتبة النور

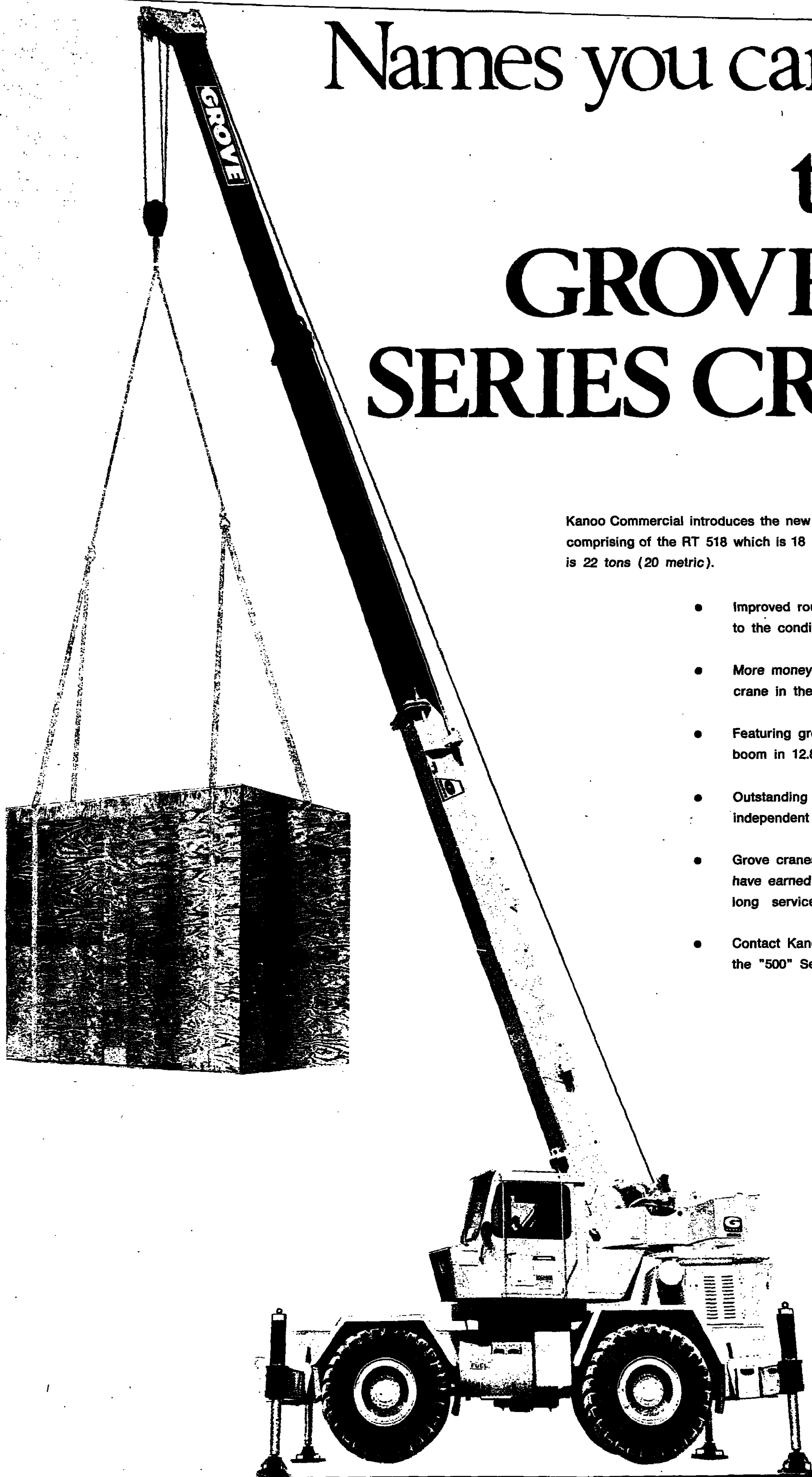
Names you can trust...

the new

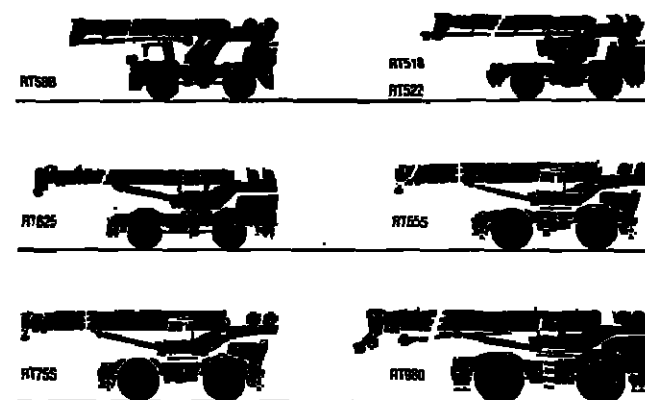
GROVE "500" SERIES CRANES

Kanoo Commercial introduces the new GROVE '500' series cranes in Saudi Arabia, comprising of the RT 518 which is 18 US tons (16 metric) and the RT 522 which is 22 tons (20 metric).

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- More money-making and time saving benefits than any crane in the 18-22 US tons range.
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- Outstanding maneuverability comes from the independent steering control for each axle.
- Grove cranes are built to a standard of quality that have earned them a reputation for dependability and long service life.
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B.C.

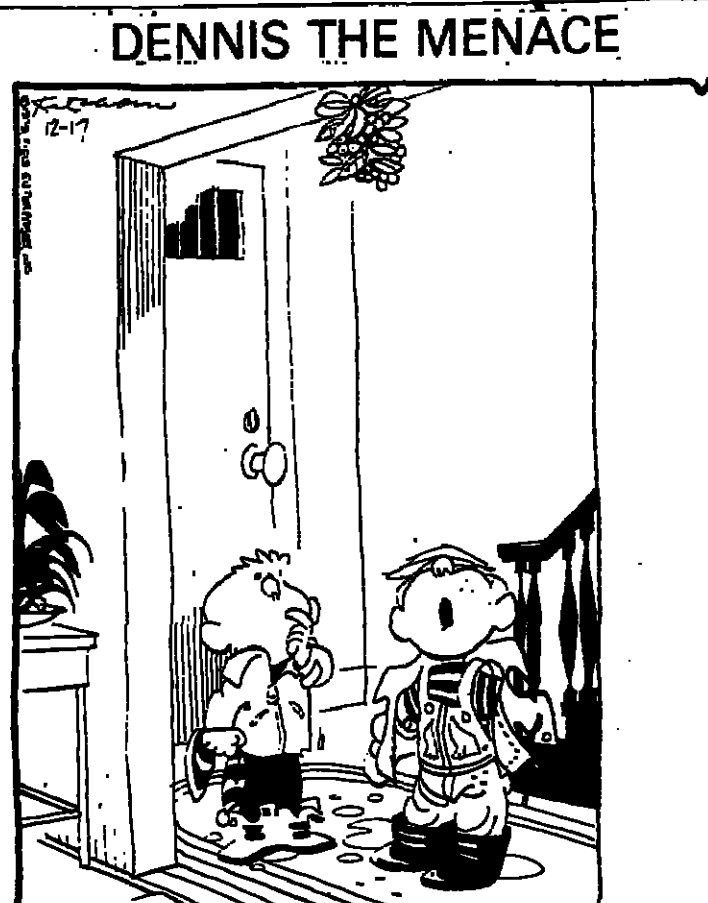
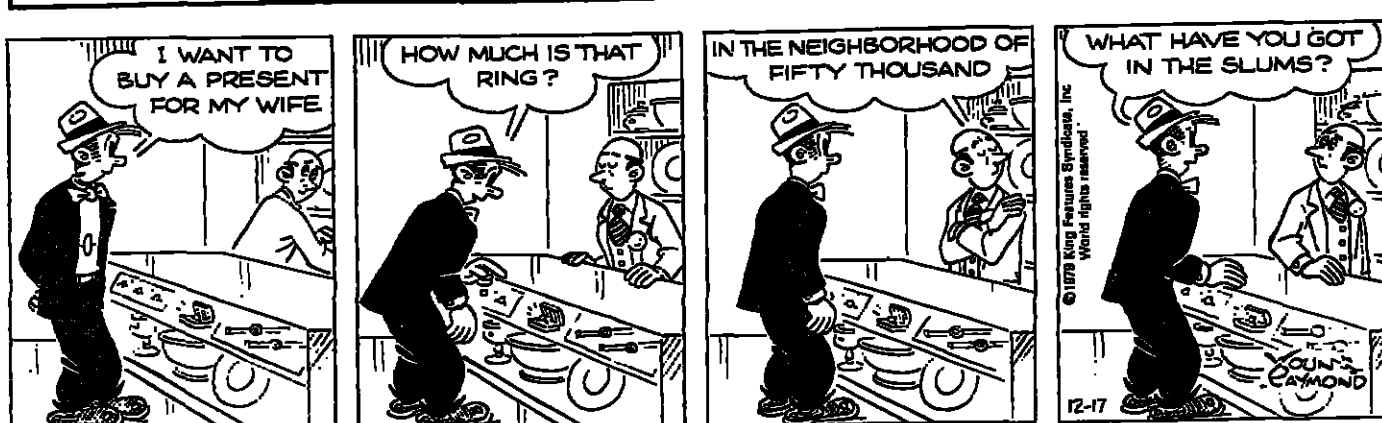
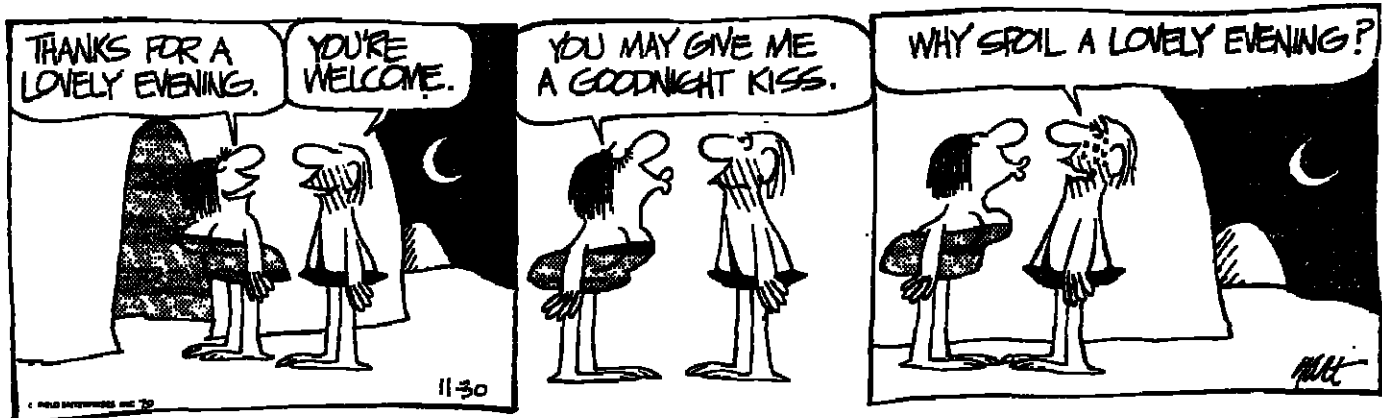
SMALL SOCIETY

BLONDIE

BEETLE BAILEY

HAGAR

WIZARD



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword
by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 "GWTW" name
6 "The Desert Fox" star
11 Petty
12 Peerless
13 Former French luxury liner
15 Haul
16 - Turner
17 Scottish pike
18 "A Tale of Two Cities"
20 Fragrance
23 "Dear Park" author
27 Jewish holiday
29 Permission
30 Becham
32 Prod
33 Run on
35 Newsroom employees: abbr.
38 Tell - glance
39 Foundation
42 Ethnic area of N.Y.C.
45 Use
46 Of Norway
47 Compassion
48 Cornered
DOWN
1 Exclude
2 Hawaiian port
3 Freshly
4 Laver
5 of tennis

Yesterday's Answer
26 Ink
28 With virtu-
29 Press for
31 Carry
32 weight
34 Corrupt
35 Actor,
36 Jack -
37 Julie
38 Andrews
39 An natural
40 Different
41 Colored
42 Nervous
43 twitch
44 Jutting
45 rock

CRYPTOQUOTES
TSJ ZSJ UVAEVFV BWV ET-
DRMEUAV. UPB ZSJ JVFVH
UVAEVFV BWV ETDRUSUAV.
- RMZSH IEAXV
Yesterday's Cryptquote: WHEN I WAS SIX I MADE MY MOTHER A LITTLE HAT - OUT OF HER NEW BLOUSE - LILLY DACHE

Believe It or Not!

George Bancroft (1800-1891)
AMERICAN STATESMAN AND HISTORIAN TO COMPLETE HIS "HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES" LABORED 50 YEARS.

Astronauts on the Moon
WERE DISMISSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FLAT EARTH RESEARCH SOCIETY AN ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN BRITAIN, AS JUST ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD SCIENCE FICTION TALE.

Contract Bridge **B. Jay Becker**

Devastating Defense

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
10 8 5
K J 10 7 5
10 9 6 5
WEST
A J 7
Q A Q 7 8 5 2
K 8 3

South
5
10 4 3
A 5 2
A Q J 4 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1 7 Pass 1 2 4
3 3 3 4 0
5 0 Pass 6 4 Pass
Pass 7 4 Dble

Opening lead - seven of spades.

Roy Fox, of Kansas, and Paul Swanson, of West Virginia, won the 1979 national men's pair championship, and here is one of the hands that were instrumental in achieving the victory.

As West, Fox opened one heart and Swanson responded one spade. Eventually, after Fox made two cuebids, Swanson bid six spades. Whether he would have made the slam is by no means certain, but the issue became academic after North's bid seven clubs as a sacrifice. The East-West defense was devastating. To begin with,

PHARMACIES

JEDDAH (Open Monday Night) Tel.

Al-Ahli Drug Store King Khaled St., near flyover
Nazih Drug Store Bab Mecca
Ashraf Drug Store Sharafiah
MECCA
Al-Sabhi Drug Store Ajlajad
Al-Ghazzah Drug Store Al-Ghazzah
RIYADH
Abeer Pharmacy Nasseriah Road
Al-Safat Drug Store Midan Al-Safat
Al-Salamah Pharmacy Ministries' Enclave
DAMMAM
Al-Akhas Drug Store King's St.
Al-KHOBAR King Khaled St.
Al-Wafa Drug Store King Khaled St.

ARAB NEWS CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

Monday	Fajr	Ishraq	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghreb	Isha
Mecca	5:31	6:58	12:22	3:27	5:44	7:14
Medina	5:37	7:03	12:24	3:23	5:39	7:09
Nejd	5:03	6:33	11:51	2:50	5:06	6:36

DHAHRAN TV

4:30	Children's Show	Sesame Street No. 1192
6:03	Grizzly Adams safety Film	The Runaway Tailgating is Irritating & Dangerous
6:56	Housecall	FDA
7:14	Survival	Distant Relations
7:39	Secret War	If...
8:29	Switch	Downshift
9:15	Against The Wind	A Matter of Life And Death

VOA

P.M.

8:00	News Roundup: Reports: Actualities: Opinion: Analyses	10:30	News Summary: America: Science: Cultural: Letter
8:30	Special English: News Summary	11:00	Special English: News Summary
9:00	News Summary: News: Feature: The Making of a Nation	11:30	Music USA: (Jazz)
9:30	Music USA: (Standards)	12:00	News newsmakers' voices: correspondents reports: background features: media comments: news analyses.
10:00	News Roundup: Reports: Actualities		
10:05	Opening: Analyses		

SAUDI RADIO

(English Service)

On FM at 98 Megahertz in 3.2 meter band
On SW at 11.855 Mhz in 25 meter band
On MW at 1485 Kilohertz in 202 meter band

WONDAY

2:00	Opening	9:00	Opening
2:01	Holy Quran	9:01	Holy Quran
2:05	Gems of Guidance	9:05	Gems of Guidance
2:10	Champions of Solidarity	9:10	Light Music
2:20	On Islam	9:15	A Chat and a Song
2:30	Melody Time	9:45	Pioneers of Knowledge
3:00	NEWS	10:00	A Viewpoint
3:10	Press Review	10:10	Music
3:15	Music	10:15	NEWS
3:20	Arabic Song	10:25	S.A. - A Daily Chronicle
3:30	A Selection of Music	10:30	Dreamland
3:40		11:00	A Leaf on Life's Notebook
3:50	Closedown	11:10	Music
		11:15	In Concert
		11:45	A Rendezvous With Dreams
		12:00	Closedown

(French Service)

8:00	Bonjour	9:58	Closure
8:35	Varietes	10:00	Closure
8:45	Orient et Occident	10:05	Closure
8:55	Varietes	10:10	Closure
9:00	Informations	10:15	Closure
9:10	Lumiere sur les Informations	10:20	Closure
9:15	Varietes	10:25	Closure
9:30	Rapports humains en Islam	10:30	Closure
9:45	Musique	10:35	Closure

BBC

Morning Transmission

8:00	World News	4:09	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
8:09	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary	4:30	The Pleasure's Yours
8:30	Sarah Ward	5:15	Report on Religion
8:45	World Today	6:00	Radio Newsreel
9:00	Newsdesk	6:15	Outlook
9:30	Opera Star	7:00	World News
10:00	World News	7:09	Commentary
10:09	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary	7:15	Sherlock Holmes
10:30	Sarah Ward	7:45	World Today
10:45	Something to Show You	8:00	World News
11:00	World News	8:30	Books and Writers
11:09	Reflections	8:45	Sports Round-up
11:15	Piano Style	9:00	World News
11:30	Brain of Britain 1978	9:09	News about Britain
12:00	World News	9:15	Radio Newsreel
12:09	British Press Review	9:30	Farming World
12:15	World Today	10:00	Outlook News Summary
12:30	Financial News	10:39	Stock Market Report
12:40	Look Ahead	10:43	Look Ahead
12:45	The Tony Myatt	10:45	Ulster in Focus
		11:00	World News
		11:09	Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
		12:15	Talkabout
		12:45	Nature Notebook
		1:00	World News
		1:09	World Today
		1:25	Financial News
		1:35	Book Choice
		1:40	Reflections
		1:45	Sports Round-up
		2:00	World News
		2:09	Commentary
		2:15	The Face of England

Evening Transmission

1:15	Ulster in Focus
1:30	Discovery
2:00	World News
2:09	News about Britain
2:15	Alphabet of Musical Curios
2:30	Sports International
2:40	Radio Newsreel
3:15	Promenade Concert
3:45	Sports Round-up
4:00	World News

Your Individual Horoscope

FRANCES DRAKE

FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1979

What kind of day will tomorrow be? To find out what the stars say, read the forecast given for your birth sign.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) ♎
You may buy something beautiful on impulse. Don't be so sure of yourself that you overlook details. Mentally, you're sharp.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) ♏
You're articulate in expressing feelings. Make important financial decisions, but don't mix friends and money.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) ♉
A good time to talk to authorities about loans and raising capital, but do not dissipate funds on extravagance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) ♊
You're an effective spokesman for your point of view, but reactions from others may be mixed. Stay reasonable.

CANCER (June 21 to July 21) ♋
Excitement in romance. Stick to your guns re a work decision, even if others have doubts. Watch arguments in p.m.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 22) ♌
Enjoy times with children, but watch spending. Careless play could lead to carelessness re money and possessions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) ♍
You know exactly what you want re your home setup, but may be in too much of a rush to make things happen. Slow down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) ♎
You're self-assured and convincing, but higher-ups may be touchy now, and you should handle them with kid gloves. No smart remarks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) ♏
The answers you come up with now may differ from the prevailing viewpoint. Still, don't be talked out of a reasonable course of action.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) ♒
Mental rapport with a young person. Friends right now could be temperamental. Don't get involved in their hang-outs.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) ♓
Business competitors are likely to find fault, even if you come up with a good proposal. Stay clear of argumentative types.

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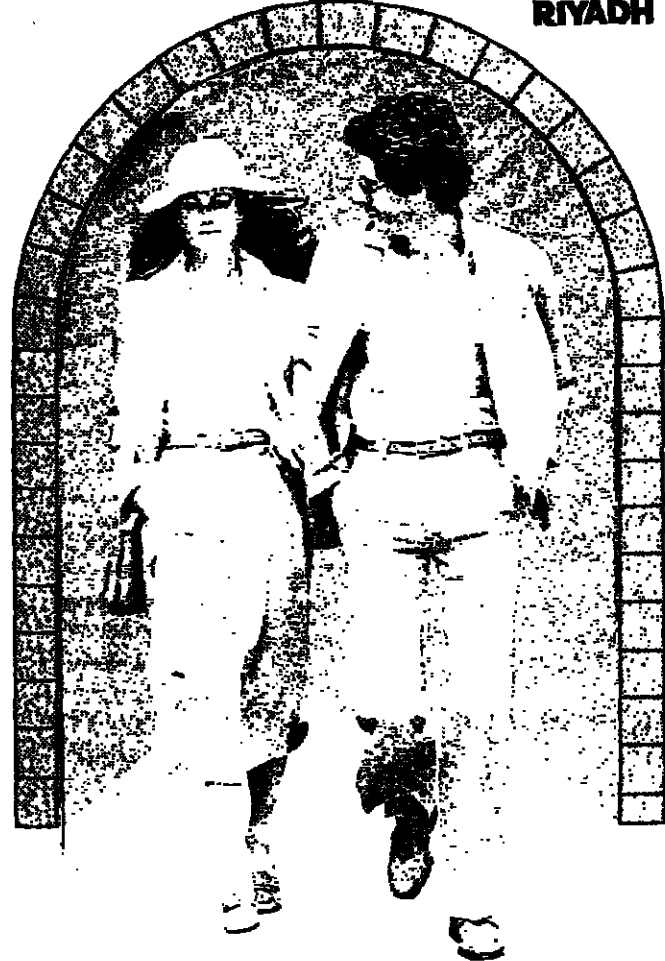
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ARYA SHAMS PEL 428	23.12	23.12

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WEEKLY ISSUE

Asharq Al-Awsat

The international newspaper of the Arabs

الشرق الأوسط
جريدة العرب الدولية

London talks continue

America ends all sanctions against Rhodesia

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (R) — The United States, which is lifting its sanctions against Rhodesia at midnight Sunday, is satisfied that lingering problems over a ceasefire between the British colony's warring groups will be solved.

"We believe that agreement is very near," a senior State Department official said Saturday after the announcement on lifting U.S. sanctions was made.

The official was explaining why the United States made its move before a final Rhodesian settlement was sealed and while snags still blocked a ceasefire agreement.

The U.S. government justified its decision to lift sanctions by saying that the aims of the United Nations actions ordered after Rhodesia rebelled against Britain in 1965 had now been achieved.

Asked if other countries would follow Washington's example, the official, who declined to be named, said: "I would think

that other governments would, on the basis of the fact, come to the same conclusion (as the United States)."

Lifting the sanctions means that U.S. Rhodesian trade can resume, restrictions on visas will disappear and the United States will recognize Rhodesian passports, the official said.

Asked whether the U.S. could now export arms to Rhodesia, the official said it was almost inconceivable that the U.S. government would allow such shipments at a time of armed conflict in Rhodesia.

The official added that Washington had no plans to open a diplomatic mission in Salisbury until Rhodesia had achieved independence.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose government has been pressing the United States to lift the anti-Rhodesian embargo, is due to arrive for a U.S. visit Sunday night.

But the State Department official denied that the timing of Washington's move was influenced by her visit.

A small but vocal group in the U.S. Congress has been lobbying for removal of the sanctions, arguing that the now-dissolved Rhodesian government under Abel Muzorewa was legitimate.

On December 6, after the London talks on Rhodesia had reached agreement in principle on a settlement, the U.S. Senate voted 90-0 in favor of lifting sanctions.

In London, Rhodesia peace hopes were being kept alive Sunday by intensive behind-the-scenes meetings, and it still appeared possible that guerrilla leaders might agree to a ceasefire.

British officials said they were still very hopeful of a settlement, despite Patriotic Front guerrilla leaders Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo plunging the 14-week-old

conference into confusion at its final plenary session Saturday.

The two leaders refused to sign a ceasefire agreement, last stage in the talks, because they considered that unfair conditions were being laid down by Britain, chairing the conference.

They object to the guerrillas being spread out in remote camps during a ceasefire while their opponents, the white-led Salisbury forces, remain in the strategic center of Rhodesia.

But the guerrilla leaders have stayed on in London and are still making themselves available for further talks with the British.

A British spokesman said contacts would be continuing throughout the day, but gave no details. One official said: "We are still very hopeful of an agreement things are not as bad as they appear."

British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington prepared to leave for London airport to accompany Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on her visit to the United States without holding a meeting with the guerrilla leaders.

But British officials stressed that contacts were continuing with the guerrillas, and said Lord Carrington's presence was not necessary for them to initial the ceasefire agreement.

Some of the key figures were leaving London. The guerrillas' opponents — moderate blacks and white settlers backed up by a 45,000-strong regular army — initiated the agreement then flew home.

Pullout by Soviet, U.S. forces

NATO to submit new troop reduction plan

BRUSSELS, Dec. 16 (R) — NATO countries will submit new proposals Monday for reducing the number of troops in Central Europe, in an attempt to break a deadlock in negotiations with Warsaw Pact states.

The plan, approved by NATO foreign ministers last week, is aimed at reaching an interim agreement at the 19-nation forces reduction (MBFR) talks in Vienna by simplifying existing proposals and concentrating on Soviet and American forces.

The West will propose as a first step that about 13,000 U.S. and 30,000 Soviet soldiers be withdrawn from Central Europe, NATO officials said.

The objective of the current round of talks was to limit air and ground forces on each side to 900,000.

Western countries will also suggest bypassing for the time being what has been the main obstacle at Vienna for six years — a discrepancy in figures of forces on both sides.

The West says that the Communist bloc has about 150,000 more troops in Central

Europe than it admits to.

The new proposal is to apply on figures for Soviet and American soldiers only, leaving aside data on other countries' forces for the time being, the NATO officials said.

The latest suggestions will supercede previous offers involving Western nuclear weapons and Eastern tanks.

The reason is that NATO has now decided on the unilateral withdrawal of 1,000 U.S. nuclear warheads from Europe.

Thirty-six U.S. Pershing-1 missiles were also included in the previous package, but as they will be replaced by the advanced Pershing-2, there is no question of trading them at the MBFR talks since they will be discussed at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT III), NATO diplomats said.

On the Eastern side, the option included pulling out 1,000 Soviet tanks, but Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev announced on October 6 the unilateral withdrawal of 1,000 tanks and 20,000 combat troops from East Germany.

NATO will also propose associated measures dealing with verification and advance warning of large troop movements or maneuvers.

Observers would monitor troop movements in the area covered by an agreement, to make sure that a withdrawal is not followed by a stealthy reinforcement.

This could involve on the spot inspections and a number of designated checkpoints through which troops moving in or out of the area would have to pass, the diplomats said.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* said Sunday Moscow and its Communist allies had the military and economic muscle to resist pressure from the NATO alliance.

In its weekly international review, *Pravda* said NATO's decision last week to produce and deploy new American missiles would destroy the European balance of power. The Eastern alliance would not allow this to happen, it said.

By Liberal Party

Trudeau pressured to stay

OTTAWA, Dec. 16 (R) — Leaders of Canada's opposition Liberal Party say they were almost certain that ex-Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau could be persuaded to lead the party in next February's general election.

Trudeau announced last month he was resigning the party leadership by next March. But the officials were to visit him in Montreal to urge him to stay on and solve a leadership crisis.

Prime Minister Joe Clark called an early election for February 18 after his Progressive Conservative government was defeated in a parliamentary no-confidence vote.

The Liberal National executive decided Saturday to ask the former prime minister, who held power for 11 years until last May, to lead the party indefinitely because of the surprise election.

Plans to choose his successor at a convention, planned for next March will be shelved indefinitely if he agrees to stay on but the meeting will be brought forward if he declines.

Party President Al Graham said the executive decided unanimously to endorse the views of the party's members of parliament, announced after talks Friday, that Trudeau should be asked to drop his earlier decision.

The decision was being communicated to the 60-year-old



Pierre Trudeau

former prime minister, who was spending the weekend in Montreal. He was not expected to announce his thinking until Monday.

Party members said they expected Trudeau reluctantly to accept the draft and to plunge back into party politics he had vowed to quit.

Some quoted Trudeau as having told party officials he would definitely bow to a collective decision that he should stay on.

Graham said the executive's decision was to ask Trudeau to stay on as leader indefinitely, and not just for the February 18 general election.

For helping Vietcong

Marines may try deserter

CAMP LEJEUNE, North Carolina, Dec. 16 (R) — The U.S. Marine Corps will consider this week whether a private should face a court martial on charges of being a traitor during the Vietnam war.

The corps has accused Private Robert Garwood, 33, of desertion, unlawful contact with the enemy and misconduct while a prisoner of war. If tried and convicted, he could be sentenced to death.

Garwood returned to the United States last March, 14 years after he arrived in Vietnam with the first marine detachment. He had been listed as a prisoner of war for all but six months of that period.

Several former soldiers, held in prison camps with Garwood, have charged him with collaborating with the enemy, participating in patrols against U.S. troops and refusing repatriation in 1973.

Gustav Mehner, a fellow prisoner with Garwood in a Viet Cong camp in South Vietnam, said the defendant lived with the guards and went on patrols against U.S. forces.

Mehner said he had promised fellow prisoners, who have since died, that he would bring Garwood's alleged activities to the attention of the American public.

Garwood told reporters in Hanoi last March: "I did not betray the United States but I betrayed the involvement of the United States in Vietnam."

Vietnamese officials have said that Garwood switched sides in the war as "a matter of conscience" and that he remained in North Vietnam voluntarily after 566 American prisoners had been repatriated in 1973.

The U.S. State Department, through the International Committee of the Red Cross, negotiated Garwood's return.

India recovers in Pakistan Test

BOMBAY, Dec. 16 (AP) — A sparkling unbeaten seventh wicket partnership of 78 runs between India's all-rounder Kapil Dev and wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani helped the home team recover to 232 for six wickets after a disastrous start in opening play Sunday of the third cricket Test against Pakistan.

Dev and Kirmani came together when the score was a precarious 156 for six wickets with the best batsmen gone. Hitting the ball with power and precision, the pair took India into safe waters and past the 200-run mark.

Good Morning

By Jihad Khazen

A few days ago, a young man visited me at the office. I didn't recognize him, and he had to tell me who he was. It was young Mahmoud, on his way to the United States to study medicine, having just won a scholarship. He said he was visiting because his father had spoken of me before he died recently in Beirut.

So, my old friend Abu Mahmoud is dead. I sat with his son and remembered. Mahmoud told me it was a long illness. But I told him that the Arabs and their dilatoriness have finally put paid to the old man's hopes. They have broken his heart. The young medic-to-be was properly sceptical. Where Abu Mahmoud represented for me the simple nobility and faith of his generation of Palestinians, his son, perhaps, held him in that not untypical mixture of filial love and exasperation, as a slightly eccentric old man.

Abu Mahmoud lived in Qalqilya before and after 1948. He was already middle aged by then. His house and large garden, especially the garden, were the center of his pride and joy. The garden was large enough to contain a small orange grove, and with this he grew most of his vegetables. But the end of the 1948 war caused a wire fence to be placed neatly between house and garden, with him, to his sorrow, on the house side of the divide.

For a long time after that, he sat at his window viewing his little piece of lost paradise. He watched the seasons change bringing appointed harvests, but not for him. He saw new faces working there, and could never contain himself at what seemed to him their clumsiness in dealing with the urgent problems of gardening and fruit growing. All day he would shout, pointing to what ought to be done, rebuking delay, protesting too much water here

or inadequate pruning there.

They shouted back, wondering who this strange man might be. He for his part would return to the sitting room rubbing his hands with joy — the orange yield this year will beat all records; the vegetables are positively reckless. His wife would bring him down to earth, reminding him that nothing of this was his anymore. He would become gloomy for a while, then snap out of it remembering something: Would they remember not to water the runner beans tomorrow —

Then the 1967 war came, and Abu Mahmoud's house followed his garden and he found himself in Beirut, and old man by now with nothing but a huge house-key to remind him of home. His neighbors soon discovered a way to make him angry. They would remark that all Palestinians claim to be farmers, all have left some orange grove or the other behind. It never failed. He would rush back into the house and bring his ownership papers and his huge key. Look, he would shout. Read here. It mentions the size of the garden. See how big.

Then the 1973 war came, with its early victories. This was it, the old man thought, he closed his house in Beirut and went round the neighbors saying goodbye, he was going home at last — that he was worried what they might have done to the garden by now, that he would keep them informed, of course. But then, he came back — he barely reached Amman when the war ended. Back to Beirut, where the neighbors no longer joked with him about his garden, seeing the beginning of despair in his eyes.

His son told me he lived through the Lebanese civil war. The area was particularly dangerous, and his family wanted to move. He told them to go whenever they wished. He was staying. It did not matter any more.

Translated From Ashraf Al Aswat

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